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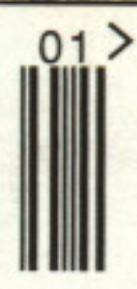
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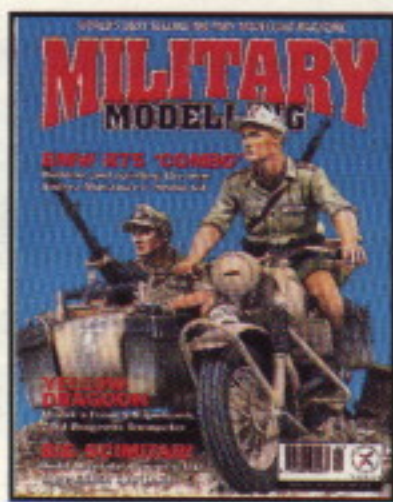
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Published by
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Nexus House, Boundary Way,
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Tel: 01442 266551
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Origination by
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SUBSCRIPTIONS

19 issues UK - £36.80
Europe & Eire - £47.20
Sterling Overseas - £48.90
(Air £69.20)



NEXUS
ISSN 0026-4083



Vol.28 No.1 1998

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ABOVE: The big 1:15 scale Scimitar CVR(T) from Accurate Armour. The building feature begins on page 28.

RIGHT: Nemrod 54mm figure conversion of a Trumpeter, 23rd Dragoons. See pages 26-27.

COVER: Andrea Miniatures' 90mm scale German BMW motorcycle combination. This brand new kit from Spain's premier manufacturer is cast in white metal with a resin base. See how it goes together and how to paint it beginning on page 14.

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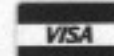
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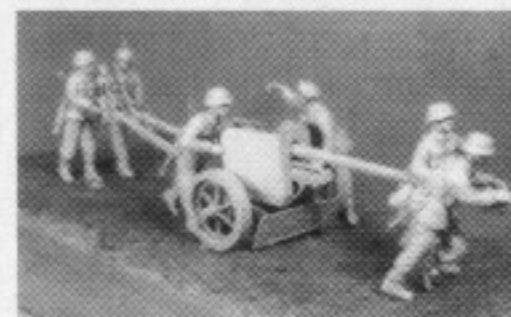
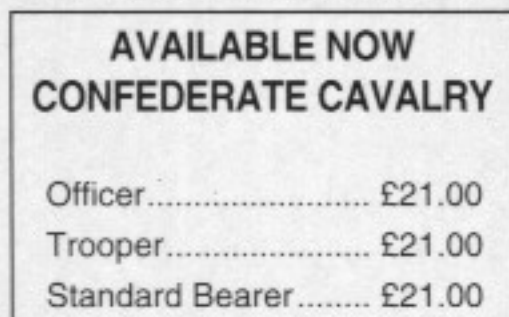
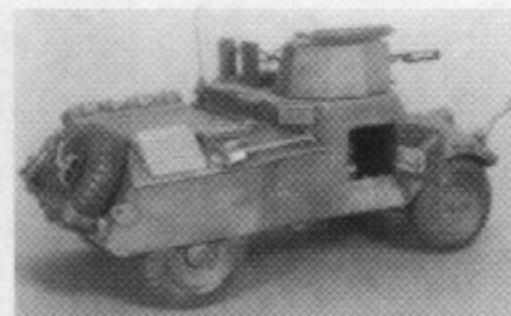
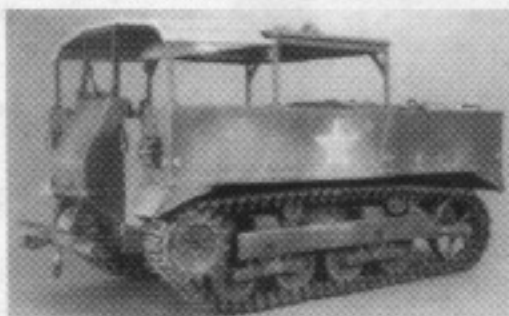
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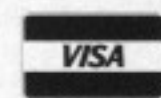
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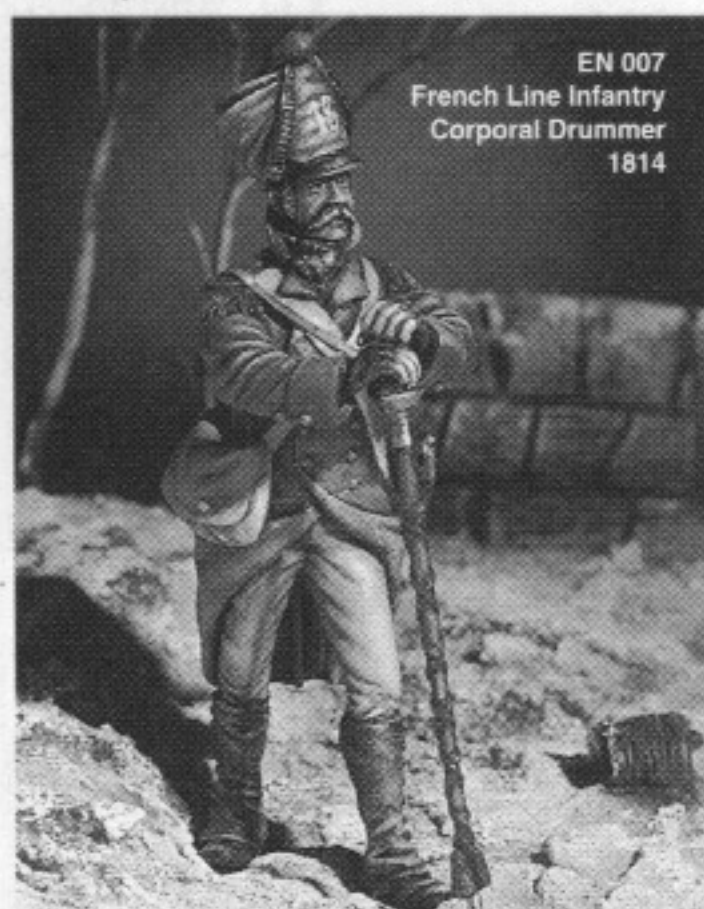
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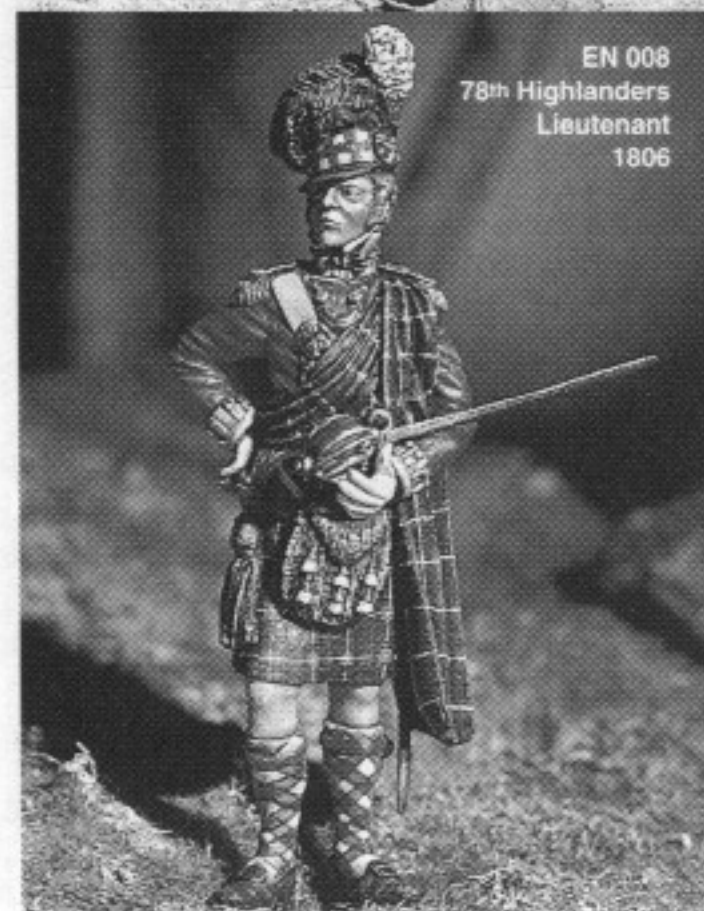
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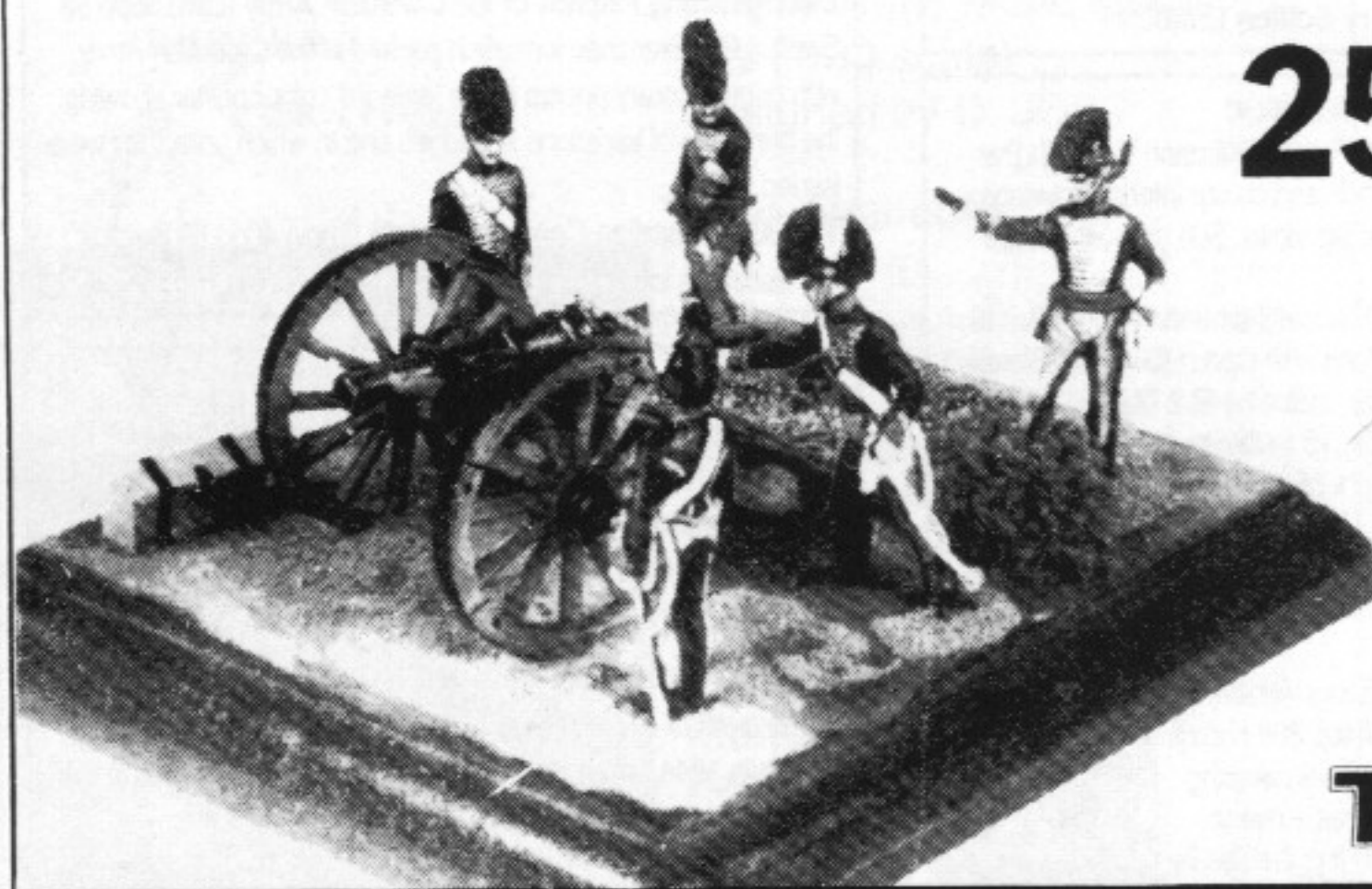
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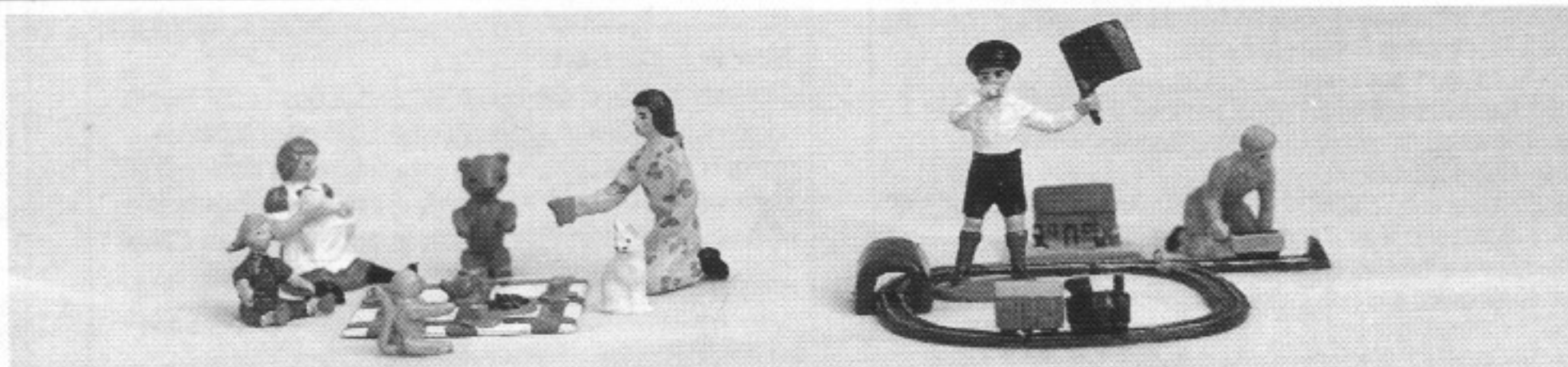
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INFORMATION / DIARY DATES



The Bandmaster, Drum Major and members of The Army Air Corps Band, one of the Army's newest, photographed at Kneller Hall in 1997 by Gary Gibbs. The plastron fronts of the cavalry-style tunics, sky blue facings and berets are unique to the Army Air Corps. Note they also wear spurs!

Scottish Nationals

The IPMS Scottish National Modelling Championships will take place at the Albert Halls, Dumbarton Road, Stirling on 25th and 26th April between 10am and 5pm. This will feature displays and demonstrations by the IPMS branches and model clubs from around the UK. Event details: IPMS Competition (50 Classes) last registration at approximately 12.30pm Saturday. Open Competition (30 Classes) last registration at approximately 12.30pm Sunday. Presentation of awards at approximately 3.30pm Sunday. For further details contact William Wood, 37 Woodlands, Sauchie, Clacks. FK10 3PJ - tel: 01259 722428, or Mike Mitchell, 16 The Knowe, Sauchie, Clacks. FK10 3EP - tel: 01259 212622.

Change of Address

Please note that The Armoured Division has now moved to: PO Box 93, Boston PE22 8ND - tel/fax: 01754 820680.

Yorkshire Modelling Show

The IPMS Leeds branch are holding the Great Yorkshire Modelling Show on 14th and 15th February between 10am and 5pm. This will include exhibitions, demonstrations, model traders and a competition. For further details please contact Michael Robson, Squirrel Cottage, Squirrel Ditch, Newsome, Huddersfield HD4 6QF - tel: 01484 537502.

Military in Miniature

The Aldershot Branch of the British Model Soldier Society will be holding their annual open day "Military in Miniature" on Saturday 7th February at the Princes Hall, Aldershot, between 10.30am to 4.30pm. As well as the usual trade stands, there will be other modelling clubs displaying their work and some 20 plus competitions open for all to enter. In addition to the usual military classes there will be a busts class and a non military class for all Sci-Fi and fantasy type models, as well as other non military models.

The class for flat figures is open for flats representing any subject matter. Entrance is £1 adults, and 50p children and senior citizens. For further information please contact the show organiser, Mr Gordon Frater, at 50 New Odiam Road, Alton, Hants GU34 1QG.

Testor Website

Rockford, IL - The Testor Corporation recently released Version 2.0 of www.testors.com. The exciting new site features enhanced graphics and simpler navigation that allows modelling, hobby and DIY home decorating enthusiasts to easily access all 6 Testor product lines: Testors, Aztek, Model Master, Pactra, Italeri and Visions.

Testor's new site offers more product information and an extended 'Tips and Techniques' section for pointers on how to use the products and how to

achieve the best results. Visitors can browse through the complete product line in the on-line catalogue and also see the work of other modellers and hobbyists in the site's Gallery, and submit their own work to the Gallery.

Testor's extensive site also offers visitors expanded on-line ordering for replacement parts and for the entire product line. There is also an improved Hot Links section where visitors can access other Hobby and Modelling related sites, and add a link of their own.

The new site offers a complete listing of Authorised Aztek Dealers. Visitors can select the desired location and find the dealer nearest them. And coming soon to the Testor site is a Hobby Shop Locator, which will allow visitors to locate the Hobby Shop nearest them that carries Testor products.

For more information, please contact Nancy Rainwater at 815-962-6654, or visit Testors on-line at www.testors.com.

NCMSS Annual

The National Capital Model Soldier Society is proud to announce that their 36th Annual Exhibition and Mart will take place at the Best Western Tysons Westpark Hotel, Tysons Corner, Virginia, USA on Saturday 19th September from 9am to 4pm. Please note that this is the third weekend of the month and not the second as previously held. The exhibition will include figures, both military and civilian as well as armour and artillery

models. An open competition will also be held. Admission is \$5 and children under 12 years will be admitted without charge when accompanied by an adult. For further information please call Charles Francis Wilding tel: 301 434 6209.

Flan-Ders Festival

IPMS Antwerpen are holding their Flan-Ders Modelling Festival on Saturday 28th February at the Don Bosco Institute in Hoboken, Antwerp. There will be a number of trade stands offering models, tools, books and accessories, plus an open competition for all types of military and civil models. Doors open at 9am and admission is free. For further details please contact Rudy Binnemans, Te Couwelaarlei 103/21, B-2100 Deurne, Belgium. Tel/fax: 03 324 22 04.

The Royal Tournament

The Royal Tournament takes place from Tuesday 21st July to Sunday 2nd August inclusive, and will be held at Earls Court. This will feature the RAF as lead service and will follow the story of flight from Da Vinci's flying machine, balloons and the first aircraft, through to a breathtaking finale in outer space using lasers and special effects.

With over 2,000 servicemen and women taking part, the highlights of the show will include an RAF aerial act to music including massed abseils, death slides and bungee jumping; a special Gladiators event and challenge to the Armed Forces; stunt horse riding and Cossack dancing by a team of visiting Ukrainians plus a police dog display team. More traditional displays will feature the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, the Massed Bands of the RAF and the Royal Navy Field Gun Competition.

Tickets will be available from the box office, tel: 0171 244 0244 from 5th January, and they are priced from £5. Special discounts are available for children, senior citizens and groups of 20 or more.

Duxford Events

The Imperial War Museum Duxford, Europe's top aviation museum, has announced its 1998 air show programme. Opening the season will be The Spitfire ►

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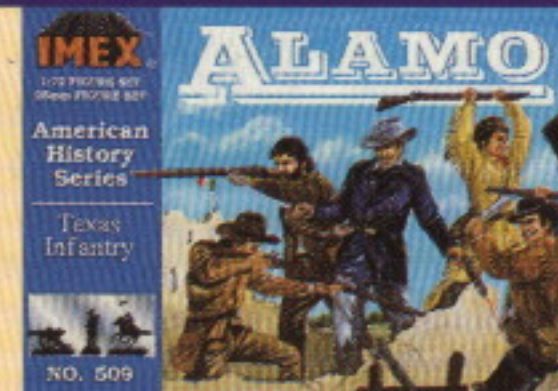
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Air Show over the weekend of 2nd and 3rd May. Commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Spitfire entering RAF service, the show will feature a gathering of around 25 examples of the famous fighter. Duxford is home of the Land Warfare Hall with historical and modern armoured fighting vehicles, artillery and other vehicles in indoor scenic settings.

The Flying Legends Air Show will take place on Saturday 4th and 5th July. Now firmly established as the "Warbird" show in Europe, Flying legends brings together historic aircraft from all over Europe - Mustangs, Corsairs, Hurricanes and Spitfires are among the aircraft that will take to the air.

Sunday 6th September is the date set for The Duxford '98 Air Show. This event will celebrate 80 years of the Royal Air Force. As one of the first RAF aerodromes, Duxford is the ideal venue for this tribute which will feature aircraft from all eras of RAF service. Biplanes, classic wartime aircraft and jets will take to the air on the day.

Britain's last major air display of the year is the Duxford Autumn Air Show on Sunday

11th October. This event offers a final opportunity to see historic aircraft take to the air before the winter.

Throughout all these shows, Duxford's outstanding collections of historic aircraft, tanks, military vehicles and special exhibitions will be on display. Special pre-booked coach discounts are available for all Duxford's air shows. Individual discounted advance tickets will also be on sale early in the new year. Duxford is south of Cambridge at Junction 10 of the M11 and is open daily from 10am (excl. 24-26 December). Tel: 01223 835000.

Crimean War Research Society

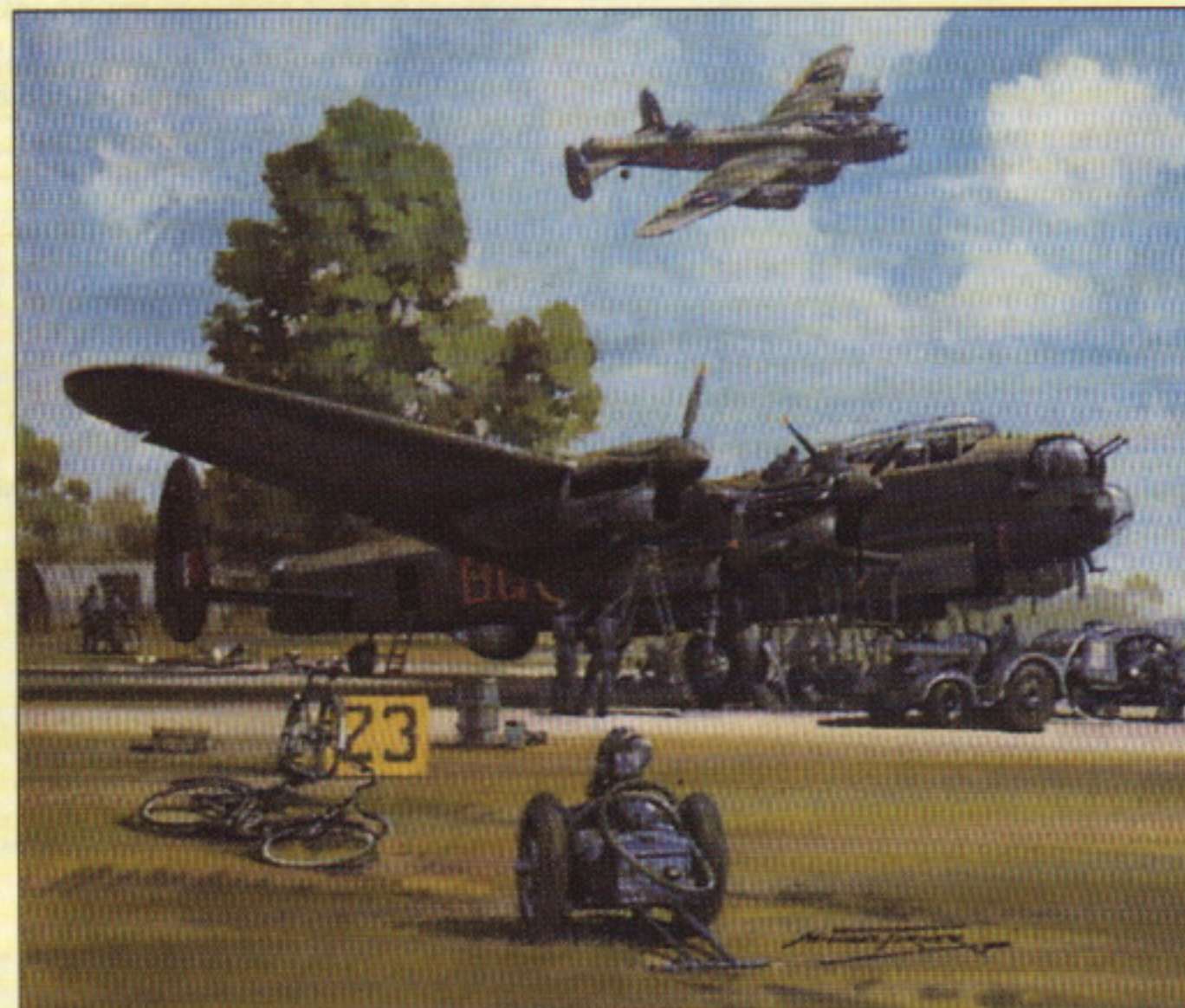
The Society exists to encourage research into every facet of the Crimean War 1853-1856, and new members are always welcome. They are based in the UK, but have members scattered world-wide, including many in the USA.

Many of the events of the War are famous, such as The Charge of the Light Brigade, the stand of the Thin Red Line, and the achievements of Florence

Nightingale. However they believe that in general, the war does not get the attention it deserves, especially as it was the only war fought between Britain and a European enemy in the hundred years separating Waterloo and The First World War.

They research uniforms, medals, orders of battle, unit histories, and personal histories and accounts; some members also wargame the War using both figures and board games. They have a number of Special Publications and Information Sheets, and members also receive their illustrated journal 'The War Correspondent'.

The current subscription is £12 (UK), and £17 sterling for other overseas members. Anyone interested in joining them should send a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to "The Crimean War Research Society", and send it to the Secretary: David Cliff, 4 Castle Estate, Ripponden, West Yorkshire HX6 4JY. A list of their publications and any back numbers of the journal owing for the current year will then be forwarded to you.



EXHIBITION

OF PAINTINGS BY
MICHAEL TURNER & GRAHAM TURNER
10th - 14th FEBRUARY 1998

Michael and Graham Turner's joint bi-ennial exhibition has become established as a special event in the diaries of many motor racing and aviation enthusiasts, with visitors from as far afield as Japan and the U.S.A. making the journey to see their latest paintings.

Preparations are now well under way for their sixth combined exhibition, presented by Studio 88 and to be held at the Carisbrooke Gallery (The Victory Services Association), 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF (a couple of minutes walk up Edgware Road from Marble Arch). The Exhibition will be open from Tuesday 10th February until Saturday 14th February.

Michael Turner, President of the Guild of Aviation Artists and Honorary Fellow of the Guild of Motor Racing Artists, will have a large selection of original paintings on display, featuring not only the motor racing and aviation subjects for which he is best known, but also examples of his military, marine, book-jacket and illustration originals.



The battle of Tewkesbury - 1471.
An original oil painting by Michael Turner.
Also available as a print from Studio 88.

Graham Turner has also established himself as a leading motor racing artist and his paintings depicting all eras of the sport, many on show for the first time. However, hanging alongside these will be several large canvases recreating scenes from medieval history, together with some of his military book illustrations, covering periods from ancient Rome to the Crimean War.

Paintings exhibition

Graham Turner military artist, with his famous artist father, Michael, will hold the

6th joint bi-ennial exhibition of their paintings from Tuesday 10th February until 14th February at the Carisbrooke Gallery (The Victory Services Association), 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF. Opening times are Tuesday 10th, 5pm-8pm; Wed 11th, Thur 12th, Fri 13th, 12 noon - 8pm. Saturday 14th, 11am - 5pm. Admission is free. The exhibition has been arranged by Studio 88 Ltd, PO Box 88, Chesham, Bucks HP5 2SR. Tel/fax: 01494 785193.

Original aviation and motor racing paintings by Michael Turner will be on display along with military works, some from Osprey books, and large scale medieval battle canvases by Graham. Most of the paintings displayed will be for sale along with a large range of prints and cards.



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Distribution UK Newstrade:
Comag Magazine Marketing,
Tavistock Road, West Drayton,
Middlesex, UB7 7QE.
Tel: 01895 444055. Fax: 01895 433602.

Overseas Sales, UK Specialist Retail Sales and all Magazine Availability Enquiries:
Copy Sales Co-ordinator, Nexus
Special Interests, Nexus House,
Boundary Way, Hemel Hempstead,
Herts HP2 7ST. Tel: 01442 266551.
Fax: 01442 266998.

Binders: £7.50 each (including p&p). Telephone your Access or Barclaycard order through on (01442) 266551.

Military Modelling is printed by St Ives plc. Mono origination and colour repro by Derek Croxson Ltd., Chesham, Bucks, for the Proprietors, Nexus Special Interests.

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Volume 28 No. 2 will be published 20th February 1998

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Andrea's Big BM



Fernando Rincón, Baldo Saíz and Raúl Gómez assemble and paint the new 90mm (1:18 scale) white metal German WWII BMW R75 motorcycle combination kit from Andrea Miniatures

Wehrmacht motorcycles and their units played an important role during WWII riding across muddy ground, snowy and frozen battle fields or the desert sands of North Africa to carry orders, supplies or even wounded soldiers.

After Germany's defeat in WWI, the Treaty of Versailles stipulated that the German Army should not consist of more than 100,000 officers and men, and possess no tanks or armoured cars. Under such restrictions, the *Reichswehr* looked upon motorcycles as a successor to cavalry and bicycle orderlies, and began to concentrate its energies in the production of light vehicles for the mechanisation of fighting troops.

Motorcycles, amongst others, were first used as the main body of mechanised troops because of their advantage of being relatively inexpensive and not specifically designed military vehicles.

Motorcycle units were not merely used for communication purposes. After the outbreak of WWII, motorcycle units rode across all battlefields as elite front line troops and always led the vanguard of mobile troops, fully displaying their superiority. During 1942, they became the main body of recon-

naissance battalions and were provided with *schwimmwagen* (amphibious cars), armoured cars and even tanks. In 1943, they developed into an essential part of tank grenadier divisions, but towards the latter half of the war, however, their leading place was gradually taken by 'half-track motorcycles', (*kettenkrad*) which were better suited to bad roads.

Amongst the large number of motorcycles used by the German army, including the Zundapp, the NSU and DKW, those manufactured by BMW (Bavarian Motor Works) were most widely used, especially the 750cc R12 class which with its excellent acceleration was appreciated by the motorcycle soldiers.

BMW's traditional 2-cylinder flat 746cc engine gave the 400 kg motorcycle with a sidecar, designed under the direction of the chief-engineer Rudolf Schleicher, a maximum speed of 95 km/h. Carrying a MG34 machine-gun or sometimes even a trench

mortar on its sidecar, the R75 served in the spearhead of attacks.

A large number of the R75 combinations were employed by the Afrika Korps under the command of General Rommel and performed well in the hot North African desert areas, which raised its reputation even further. The production of the BMW R75 was begun in the autumn of 1940, and about 16,500 were produced up to the War's end.

The kit

The Andrea kit is a super detailed 90mm (1:18 scale) rendition of one of these legendary motorcycles belonging to the 21st Panzer Division in 1942, part of Rommel's *Afrika Korps*.

Amongst the great number of vehicles used in WWII, it appears that the German types seem, for some reason, to be more attractive than their Allied counterparts as can be deduced from the large number of models of this kind that the modelling industry has produced over the last 30 years. Alternatively, is it, perhaps, because Germany lost the war?

German motorcycles are not alien to this phenomenon, and have been represented many times from smaller scales up to the gigantic plastic 1:9 scale models that the Italian firm Esci released some years ago.

At the Andrea studio nobody doubted that the ideal material in which to produce the model was white metal and made to the 'traditional' 90mm (1:18 scale) as opposed to the 'popular' 120mm (1:15 scale) was the right choice. When it came to select the most effective finish the sand colour of the North African campaign was our first choice.

Specifications

Engine: Air-cooled, 745 cc two-cylinder flat horizontally opposed four-stroke, developing 26 hp at 4,400 rpm.
Weight: 400 kg with sidecar. Maximum weight loaded: 820 kg.
Gears: 4 (on road), 3 (off road), 1 reverse gear.
Maximum speed: 92 km/h.
Fording capacity: 350 mm.
Fuel consumption: 6.7 litres per 100 km @ 61 km/h on road: up to 9 litres per 100 km off road.
Maximum range: 360 km.



The cast polyurethane resin scenic base.

Assembly tips

After the release of Andrea Miniatures' U-Boat Conning Tower more than a year ago, many modellers wondered what would be the next in what seem to be a saga of 'super kits'. A motorcycle that became a legend is the subject this time resulting in a model with more than 170 metal and photo-etched parts, transfers, etc.

With so many pieces in the kit, a good instruction booklet is a must and Andrea has

produced the very thing. The assembly process is photographed step-by-step in dozens of shots distributed throughout its 40 pages. In this way what might be a painstaking assembly job becomes a pleasant, though long and exciting modelling experience.

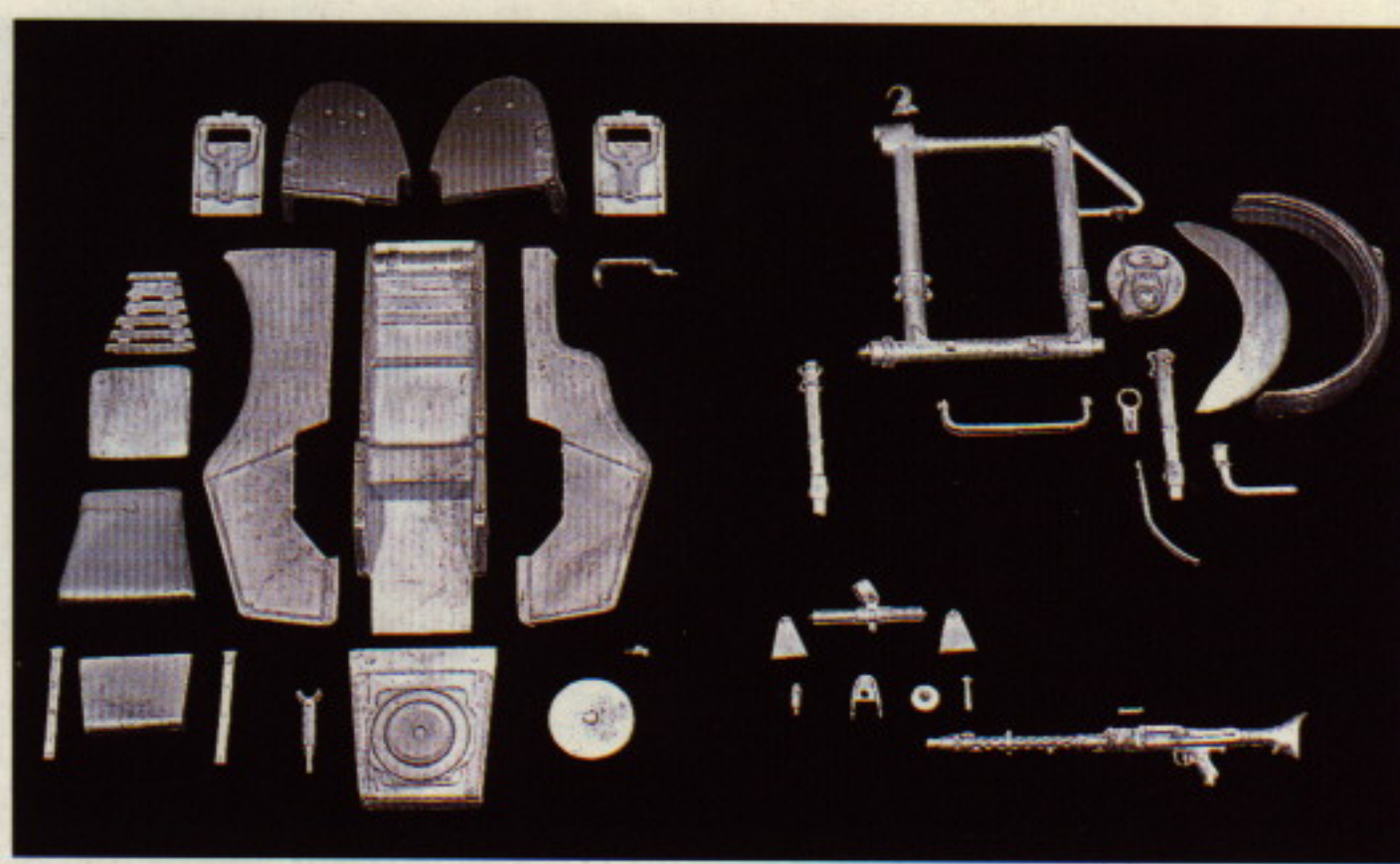
Though general advice and references can also be found also in the instruction book, the need must be stressed for careful preparation and checking of all parts; cleaning possible

flaws with the help of the hobby craft blade and small files, and finishing with smooth 360 and 400 sandpapers.

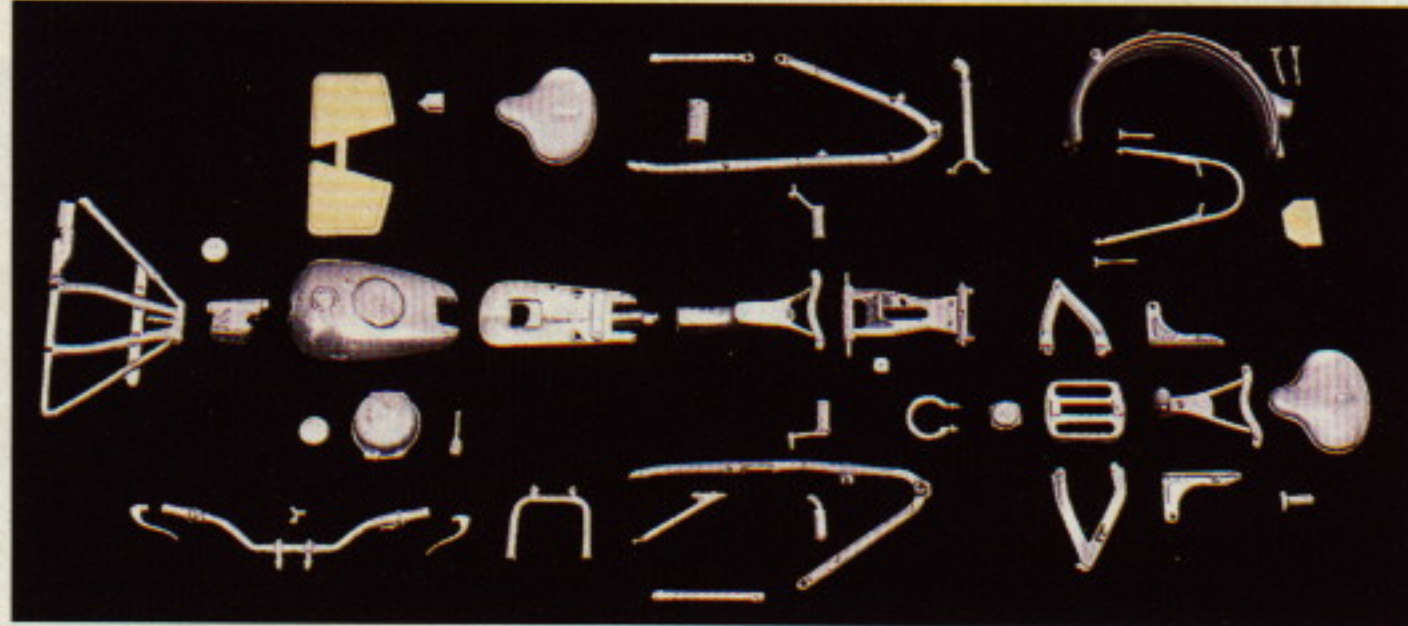
Another important task is drilling holes. It will be necessary to drill a number of pieces that come conveniently marked for this purpose. Simple hobby drills of 0.5mm and 1mm will do the job and it is advisable to do all 0.5mm drilling for wiring before gluing the parts.

Three pieces have to be slightly shaped for assembly.

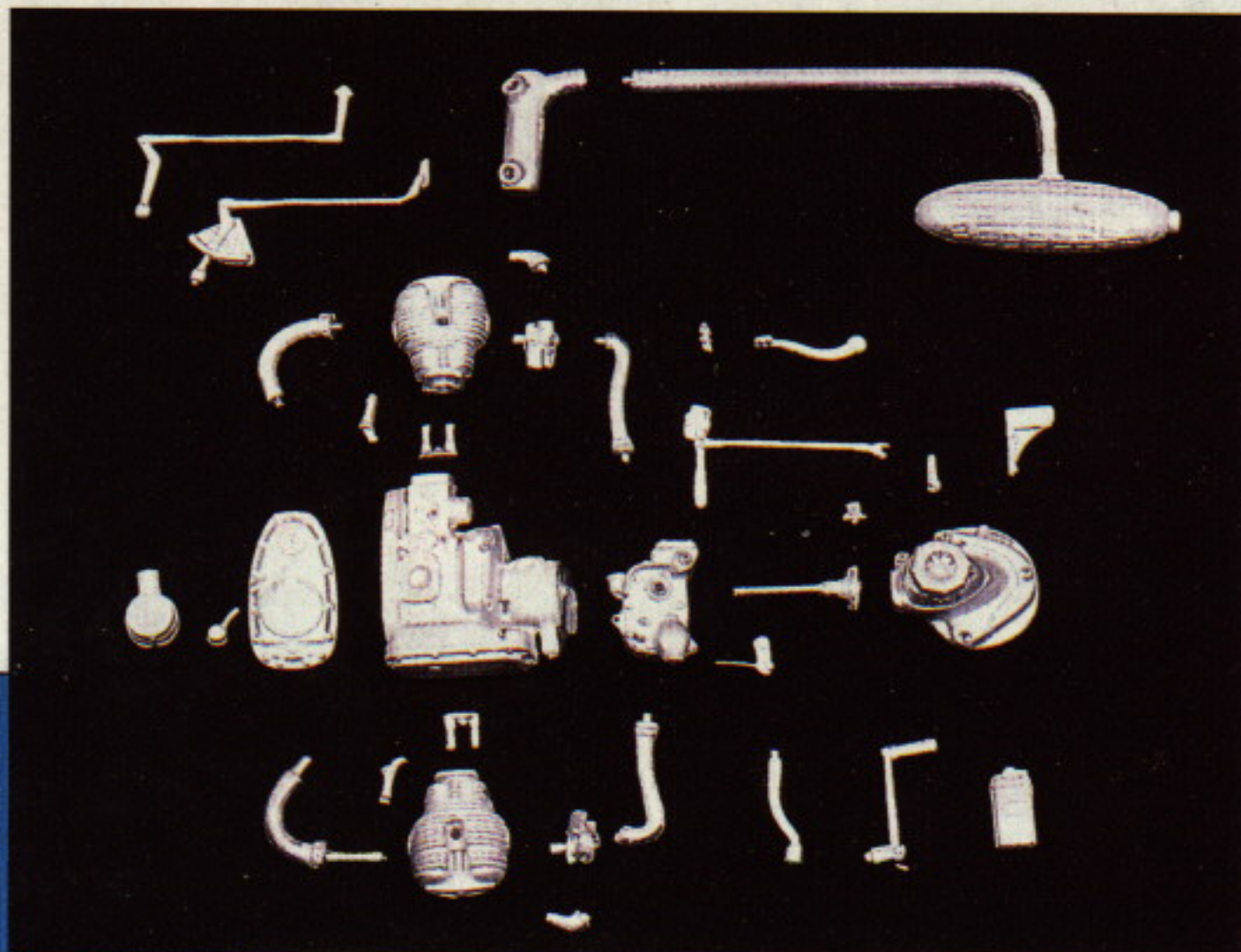
1. The handlebar must be bent smoothly to fit the driver's hands.



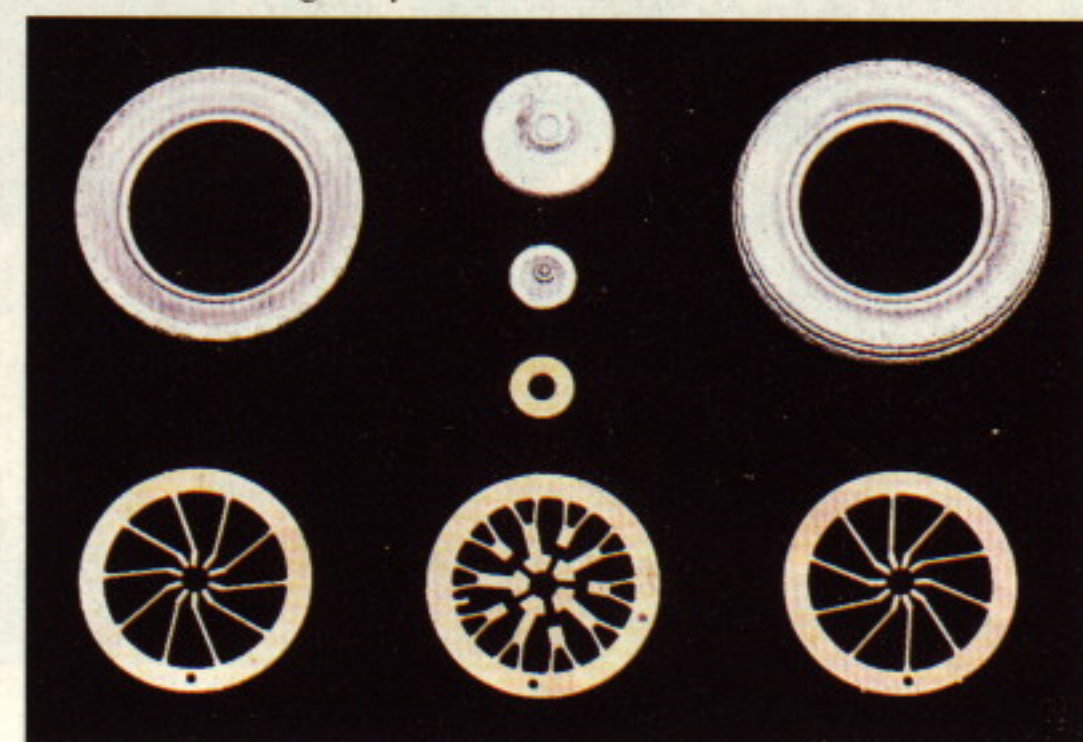
White metal parts for the sidecar.



White metal parts for the motorcycle frame.



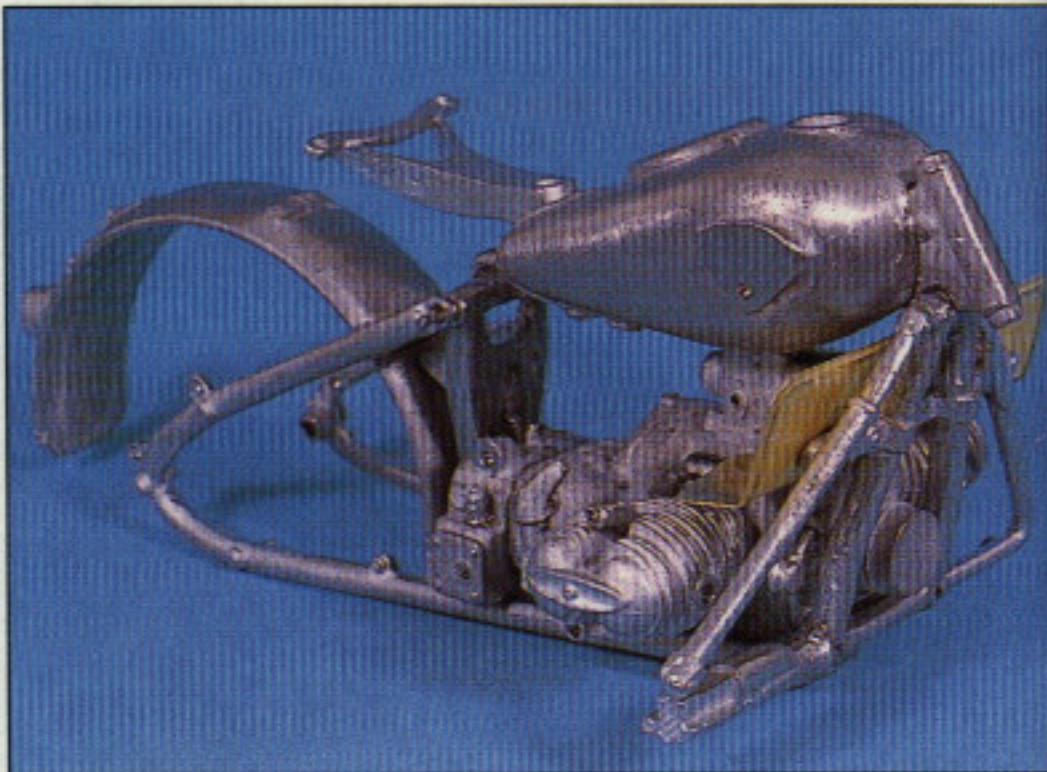
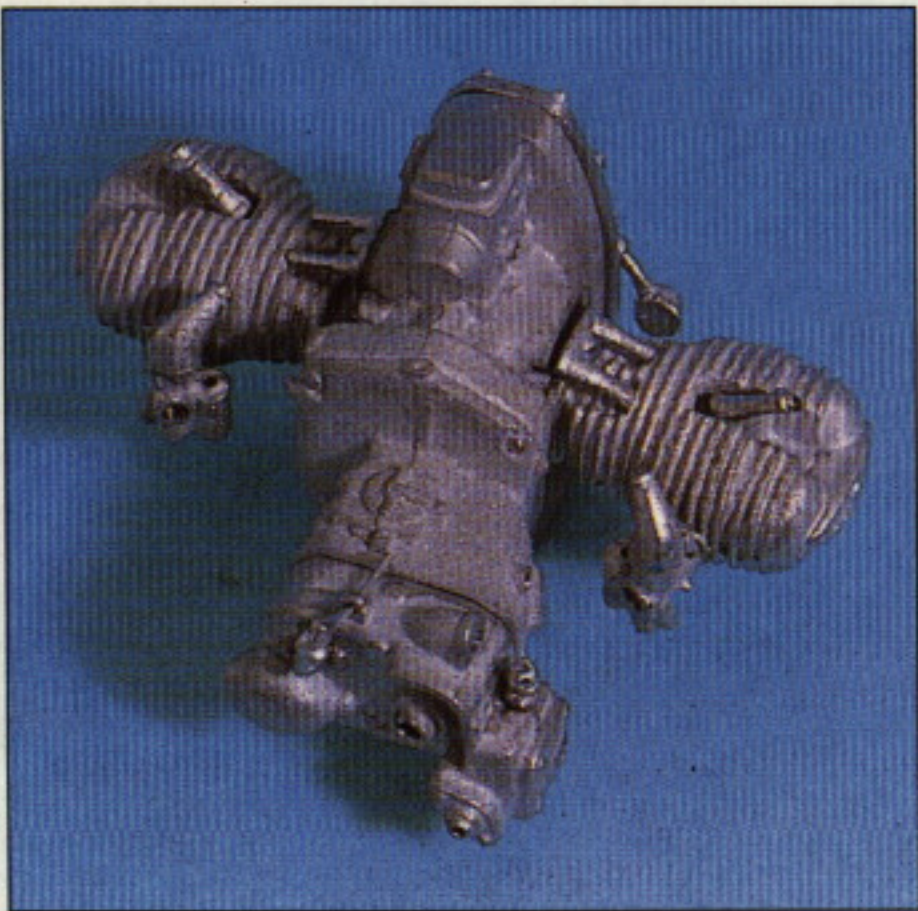
The detailed engine parts.



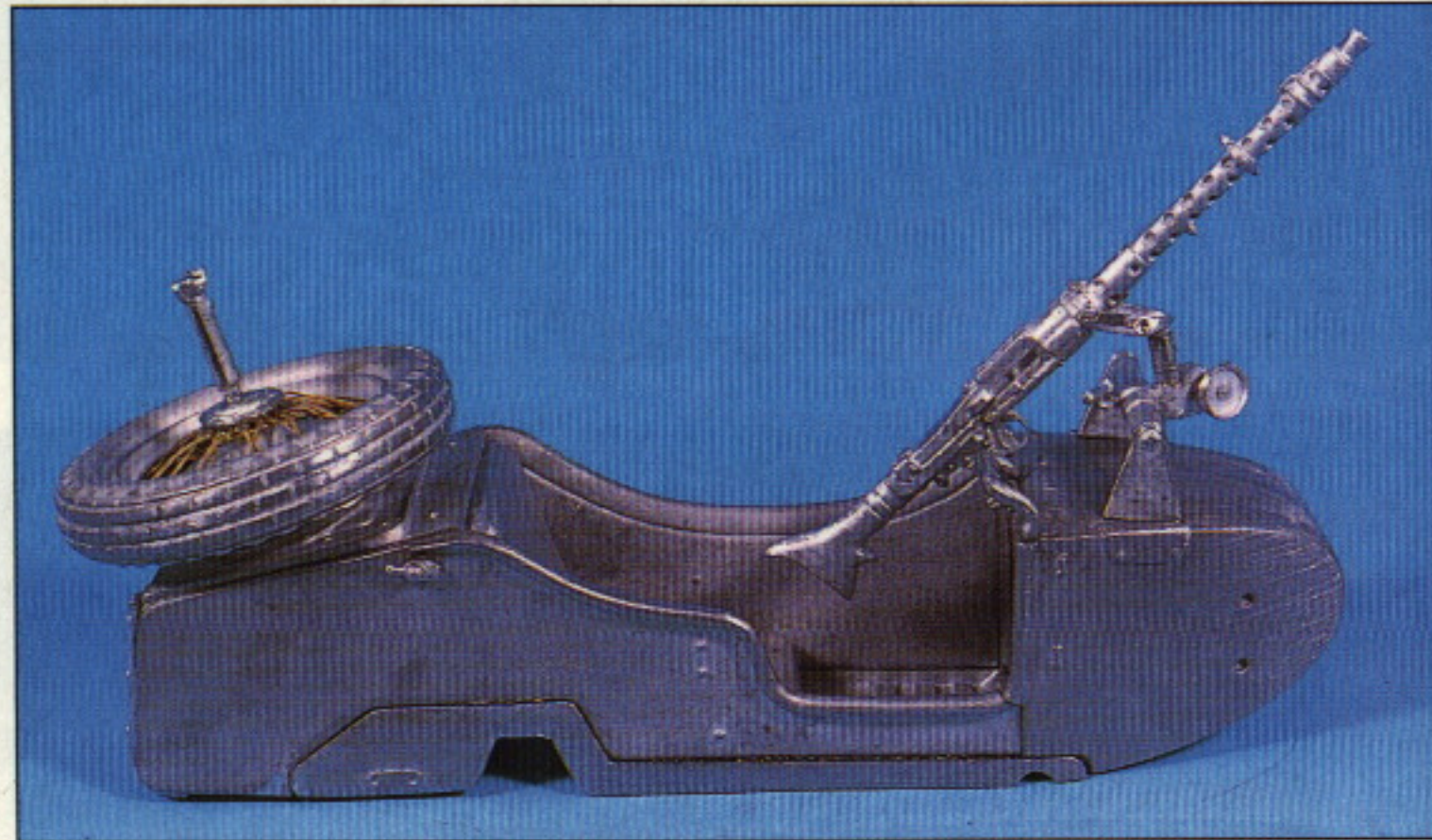
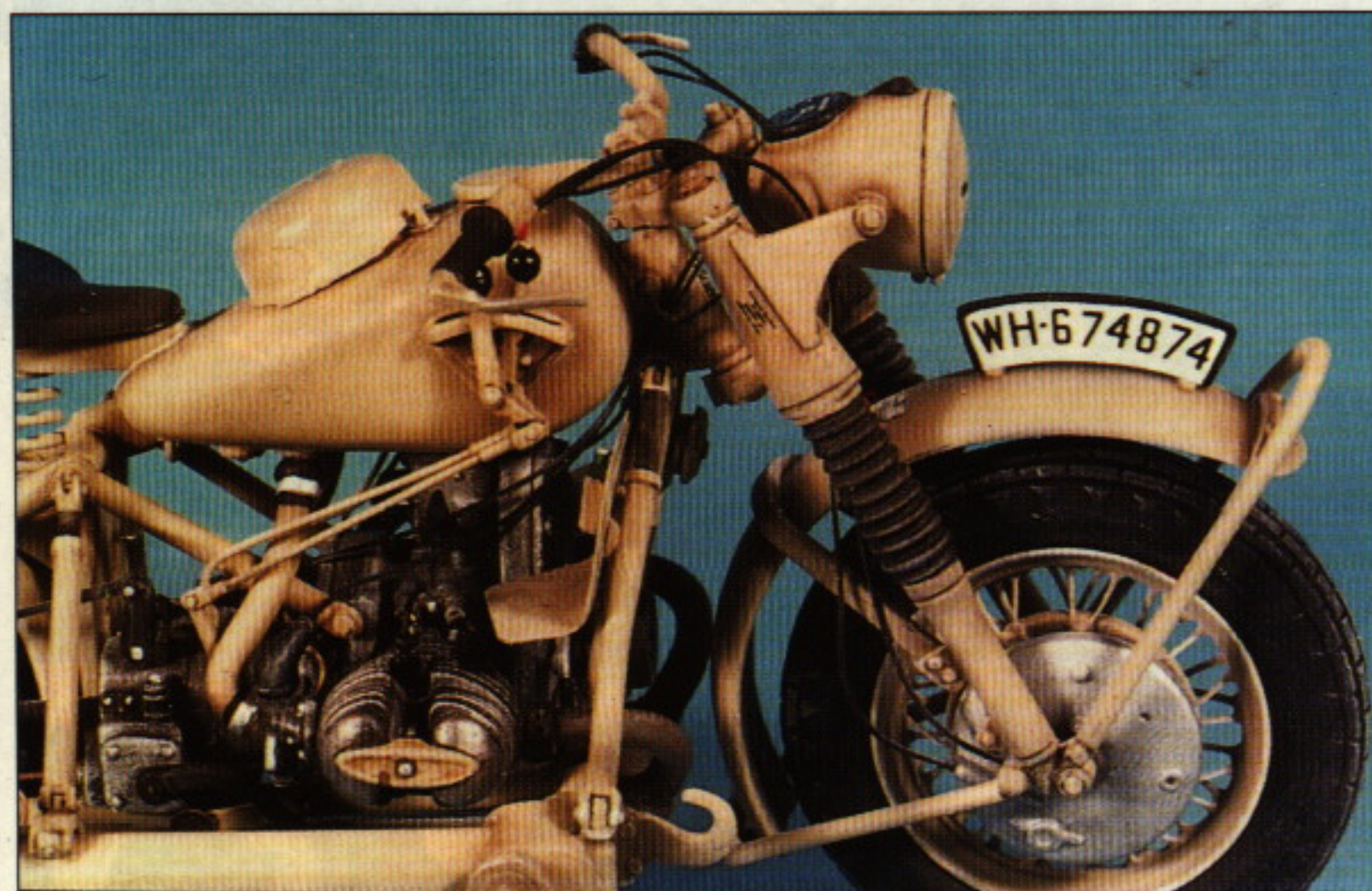
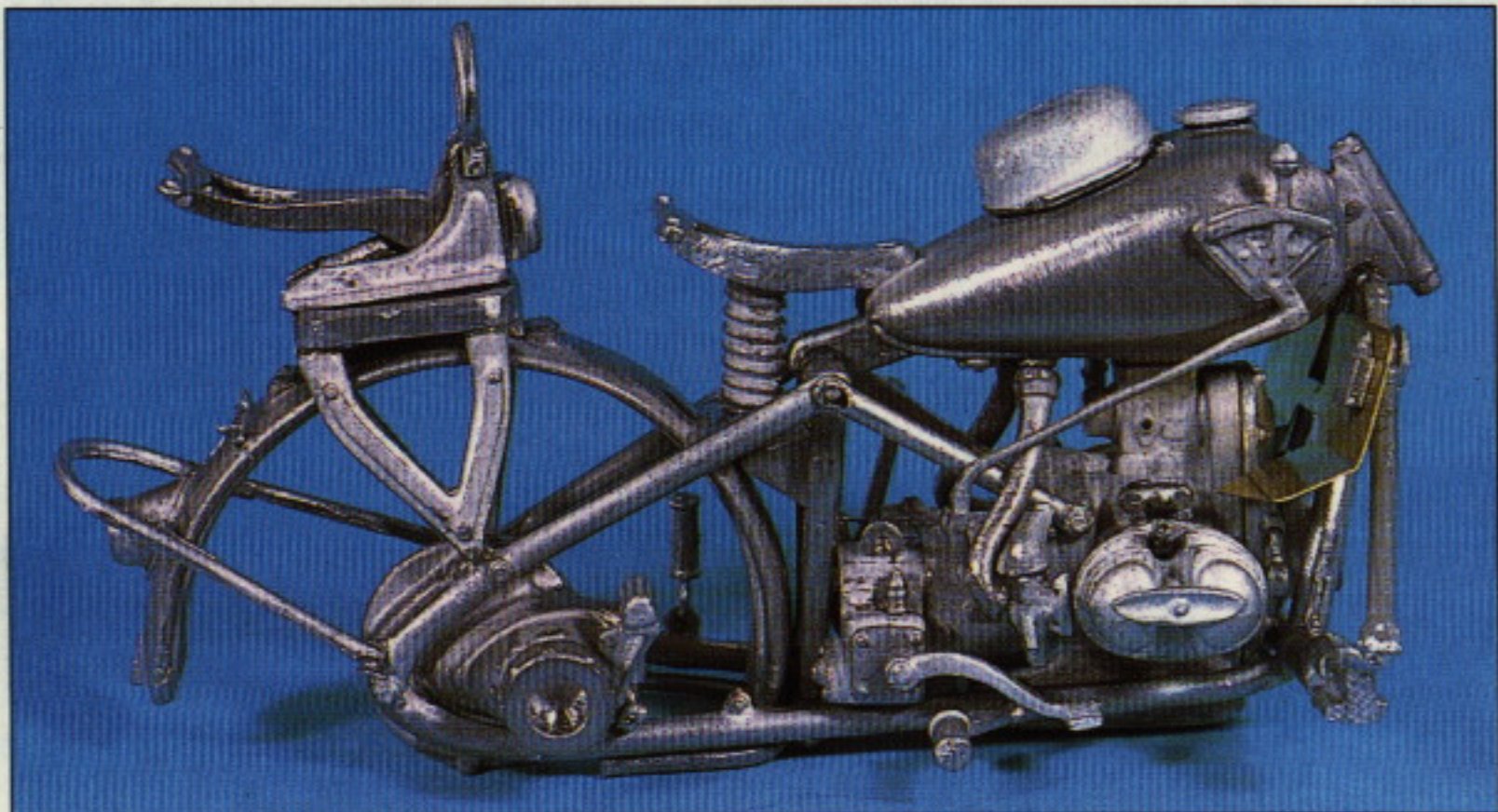
White metal tyres and wheels with photo-etched brass spokes.



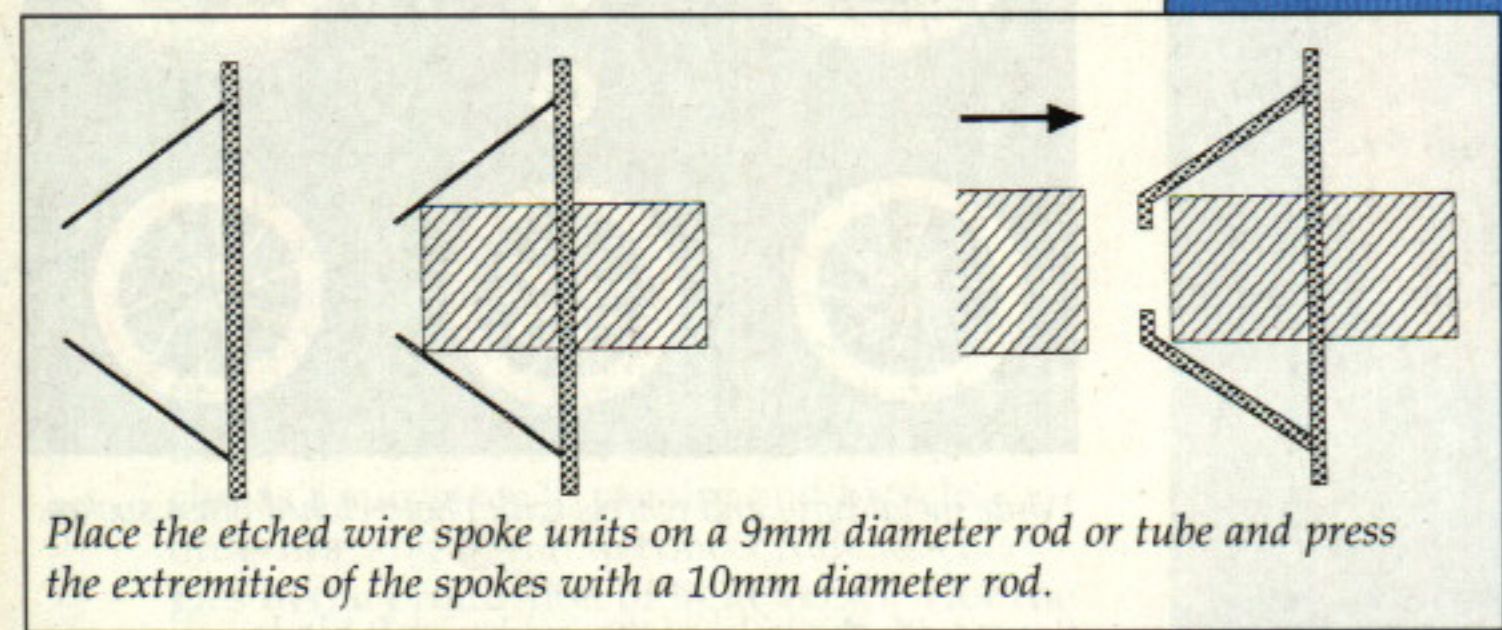
ABOVE: Motorcycle frame and fuel tank assembled.
BELOW: The motorcycle frame receives further details and is complete except for the wheels.



The engine in place on the frame.
LEFT: Engine assembled.

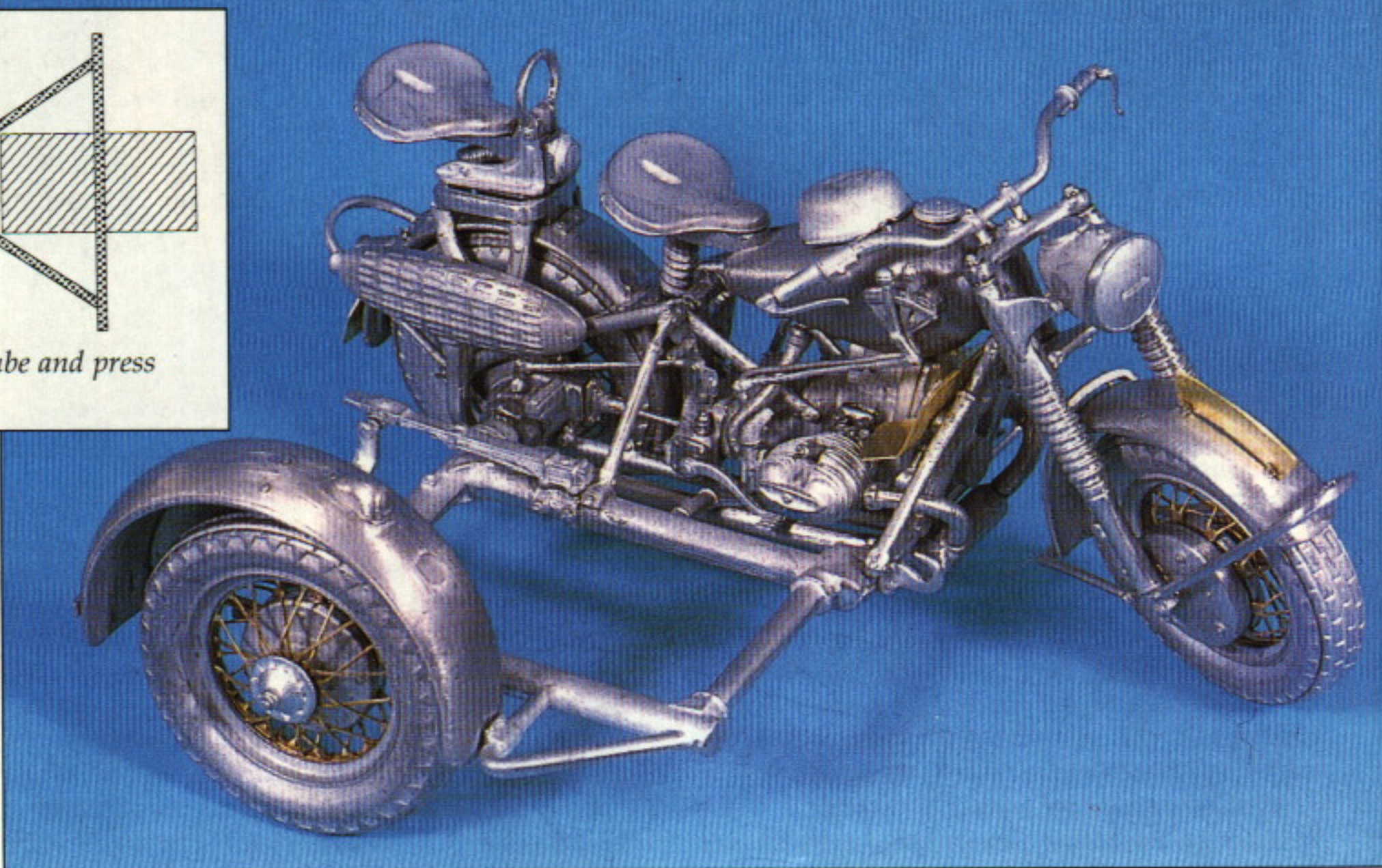


ABOVE: Sidecar body and MG-34 machine-gun. BELOW: Motorcycle and sidecar frame assembled. The etched wheel spokes represent a good scale appearance of a notoriously difficult to produce item.



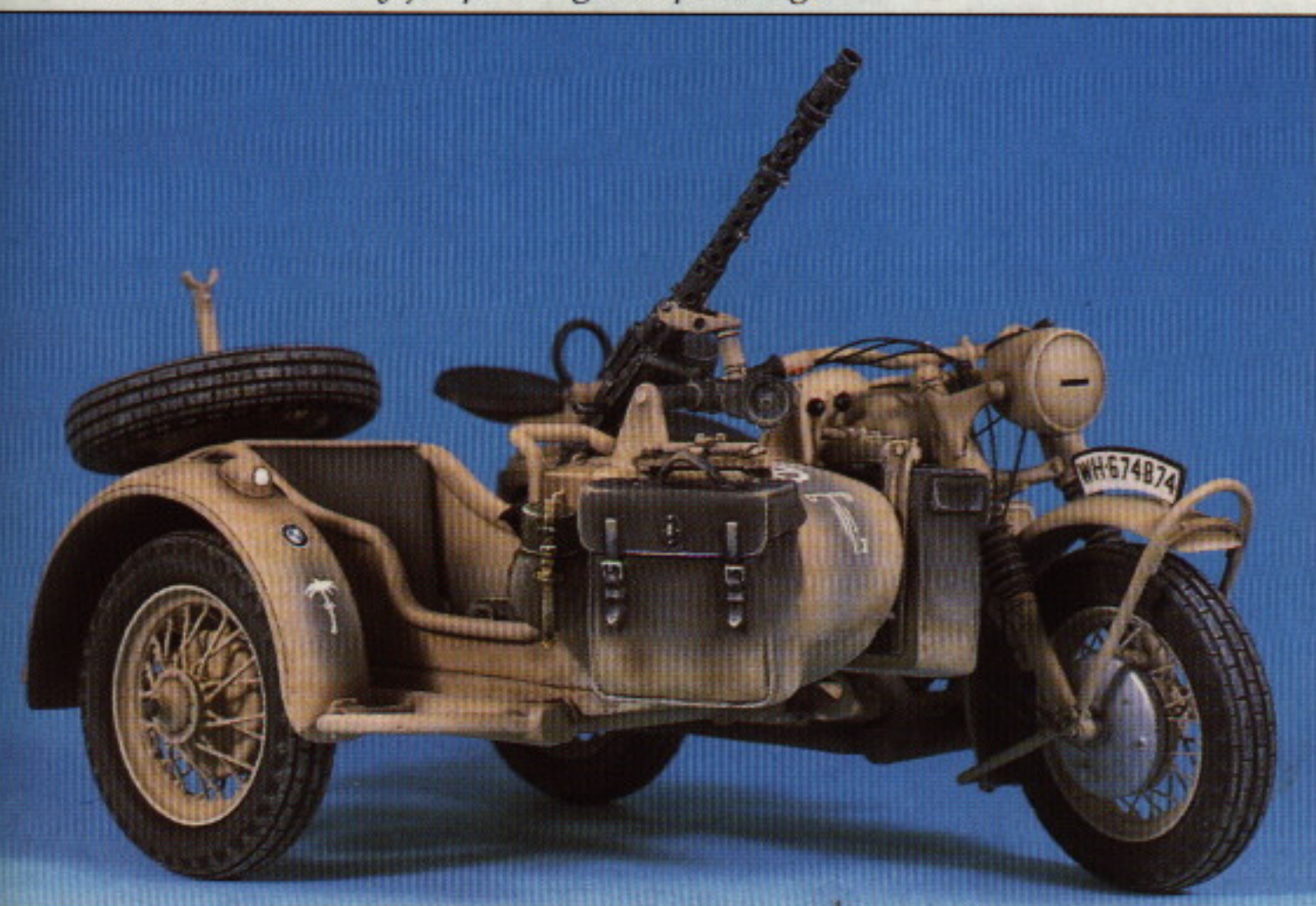
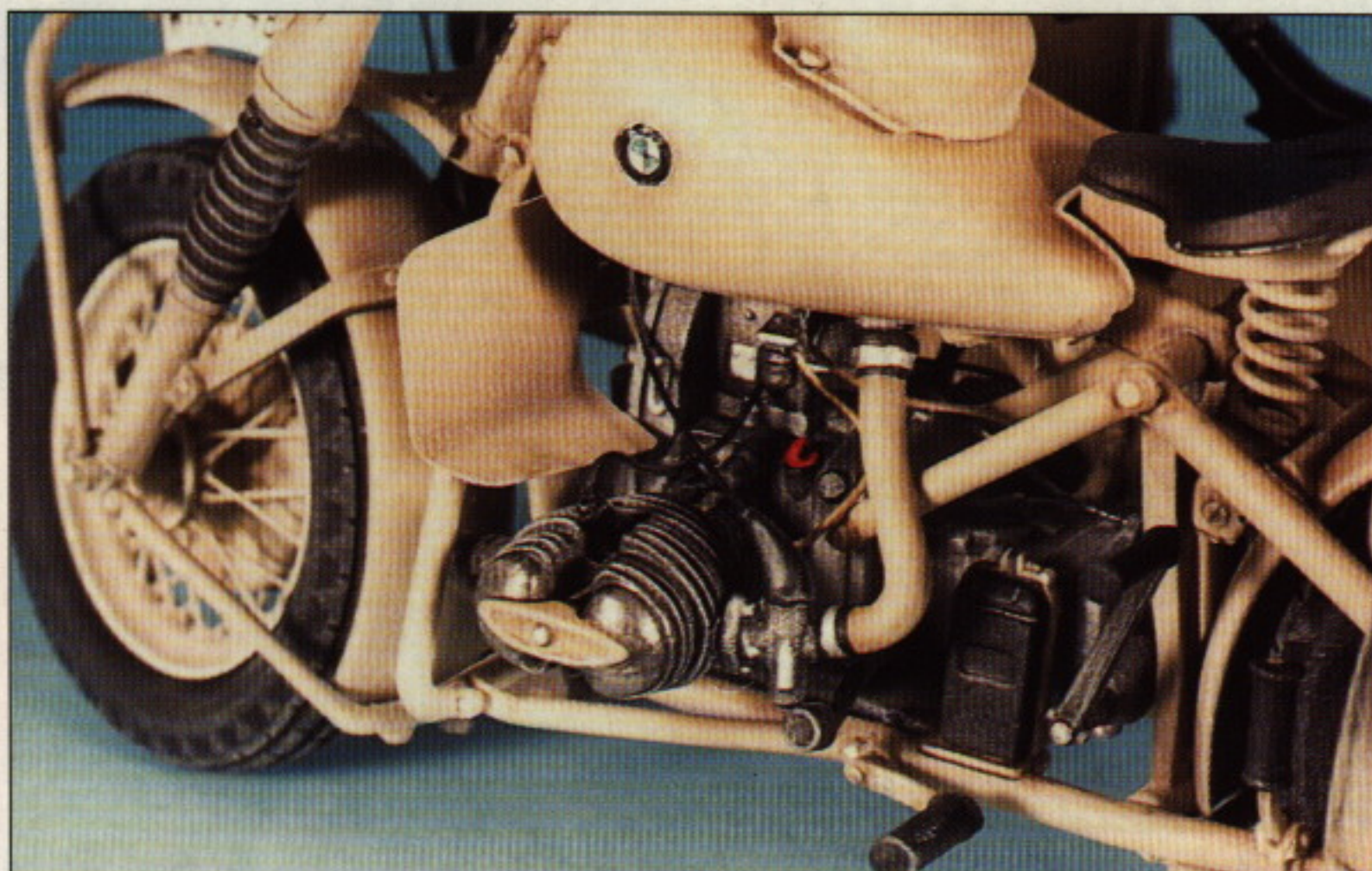
Place the etched wire spoke units on a 9mm diameter rod or tube and press the extremities of the spokes with a 10mm diameter rod.

2. The screen (part P5) a photo-etched piece that must to be bent by means of small pliers to an angle of approximately 70°.
 3. The wheel spokes. These are photo-etched and it is advisable to heat the pieces to make fitting them easier.
- A simple device using two rods or cylinders of 9mm and 10 mm in diameter can be used to get the correct angle in the spokes. This is shown in the drawing where the 9

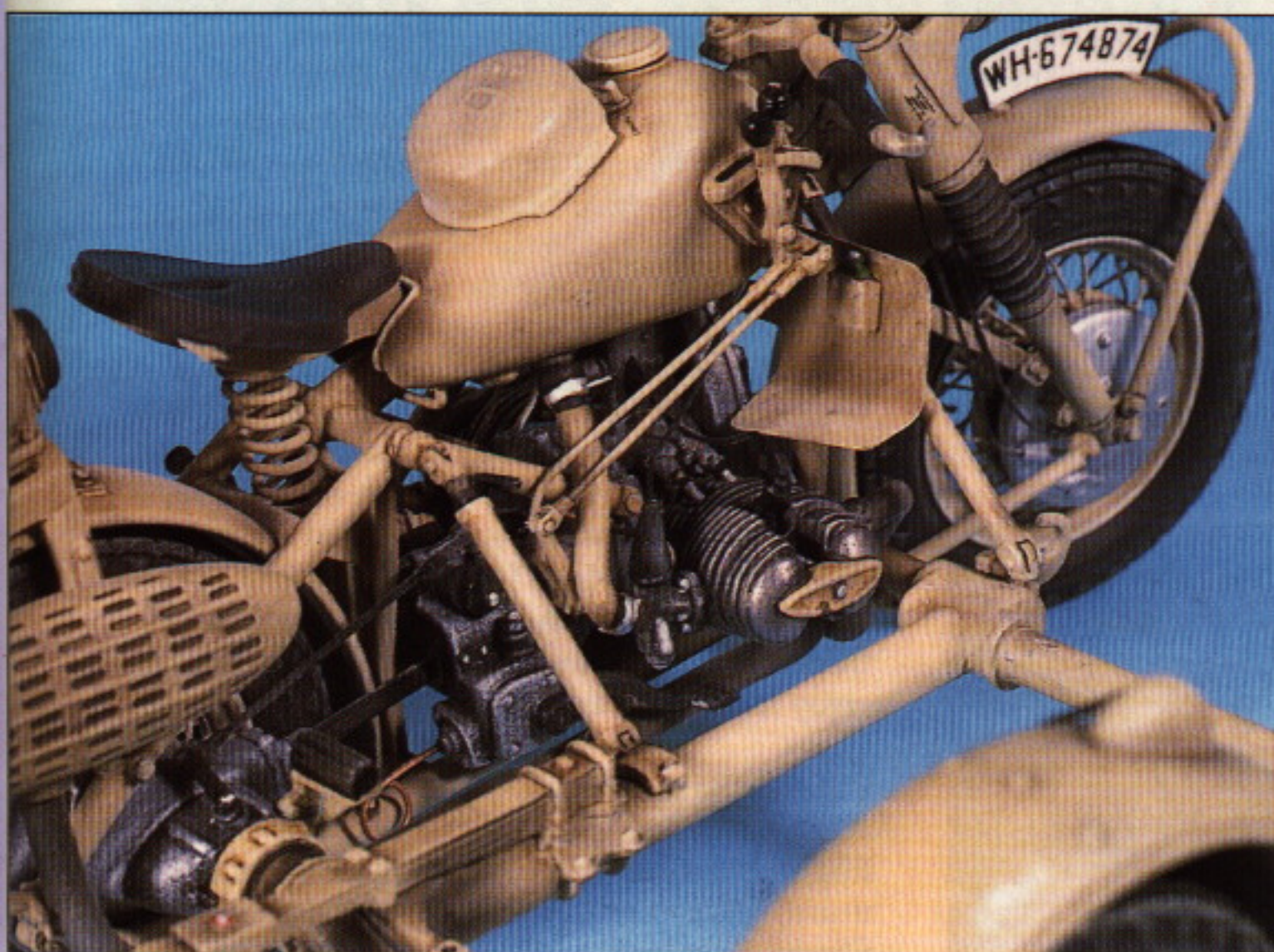
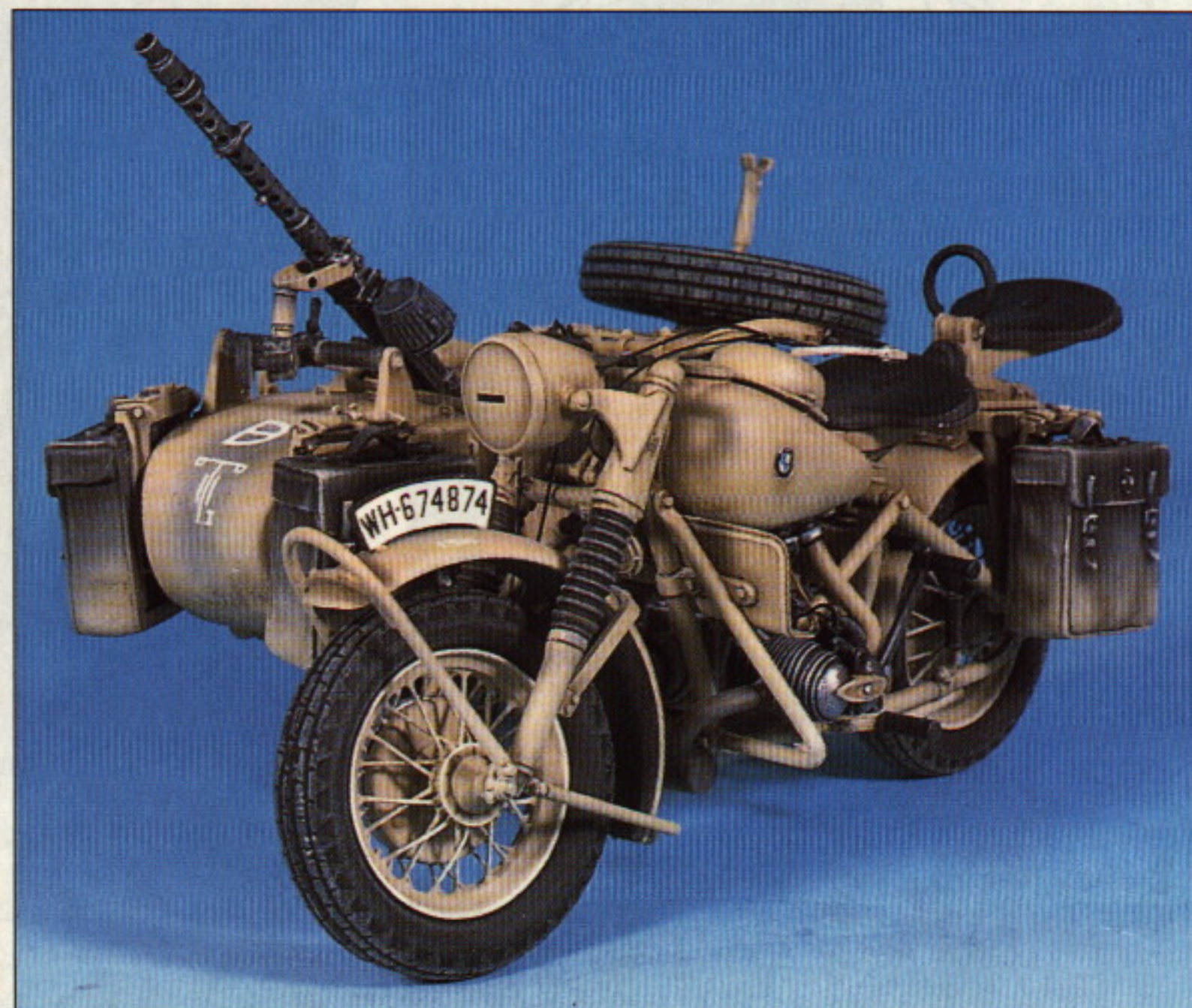




Kit assembled ready for priming and painting.



ABOVE & RIGHT: Motorcycle and sidecar painted and weathered before the crew was fitted. Note the cables and piping fitted.



Views of the painted installed engine from both sides.

mm cylinder is placed inside the spokes pushing them outwards to the correct angle, while the 10 mm piece is used to flatten the spoke ends. Final adjustments can be made by hand, using small pliers.

Cyanoacrylate glue was used extensively for assembling almost all pieces of the motorcycle. It is better to use a toothpick or a fine wire to apply the glue, to avoid any excess that might ruin the many delicate pieces included in this kit. Epoxy putty wasn't used during the assembly, but if filling is required, Milliput and further sandpapering is advised before painting.

Painting the bike

The motorcycle was painted in desert colours, as seen during the North African campaign. It is very important to clean any dust, etc., off the kit's surface before priming. Practically all colours were applied with an airbrush using the acrylic paints in the Andrea colour range and detailed information on the paint codes used is given in the instruction booklet. Colour mixes are given at the end of this article.

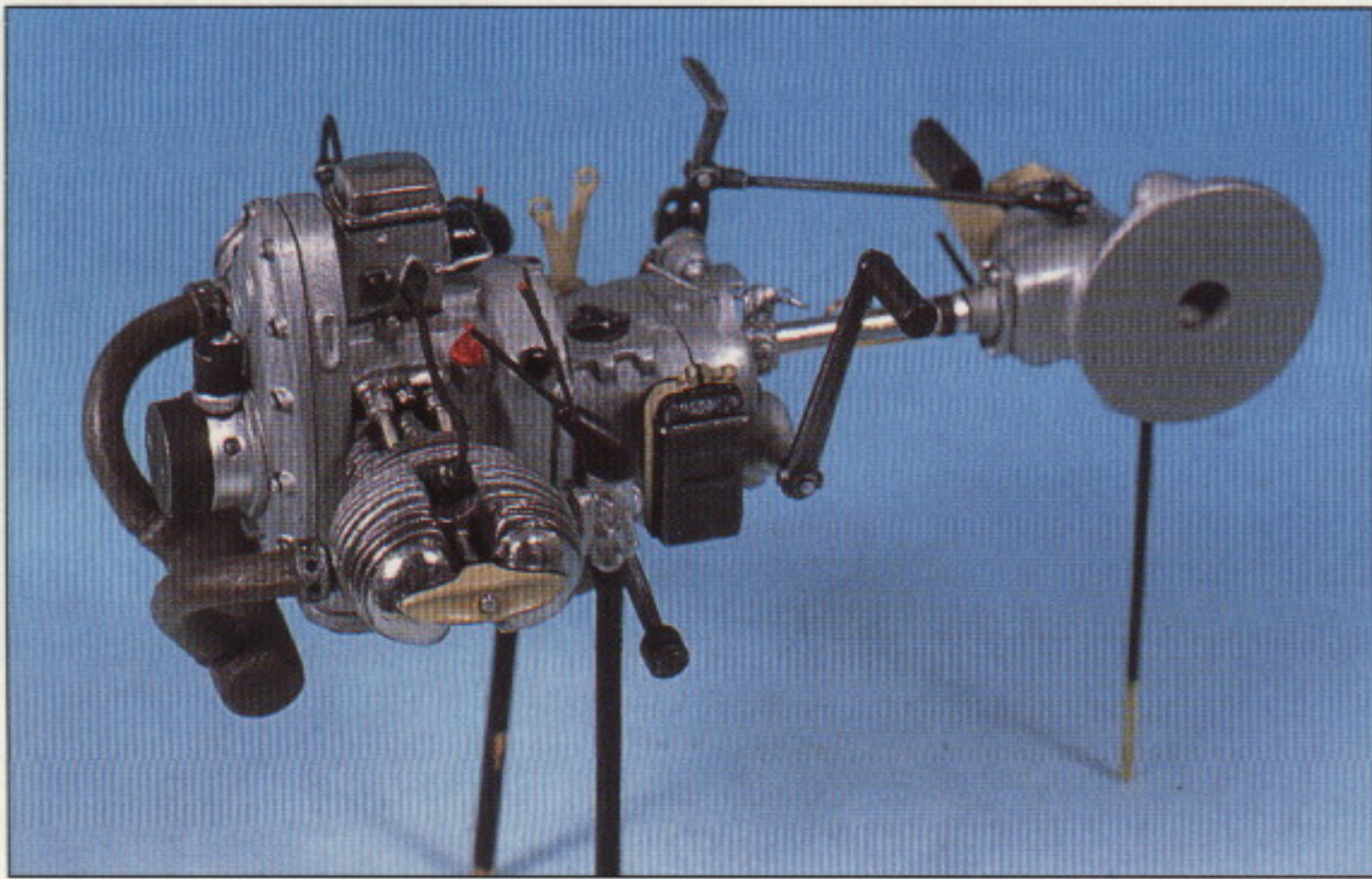
Final touches and details were added by traditional dry-brushing methods.

Once the transfers were applied and some tiny brush strokes added, the motorcycle was airbrushed with Andrea matt varnish. The bike was now ready to receive its crew.

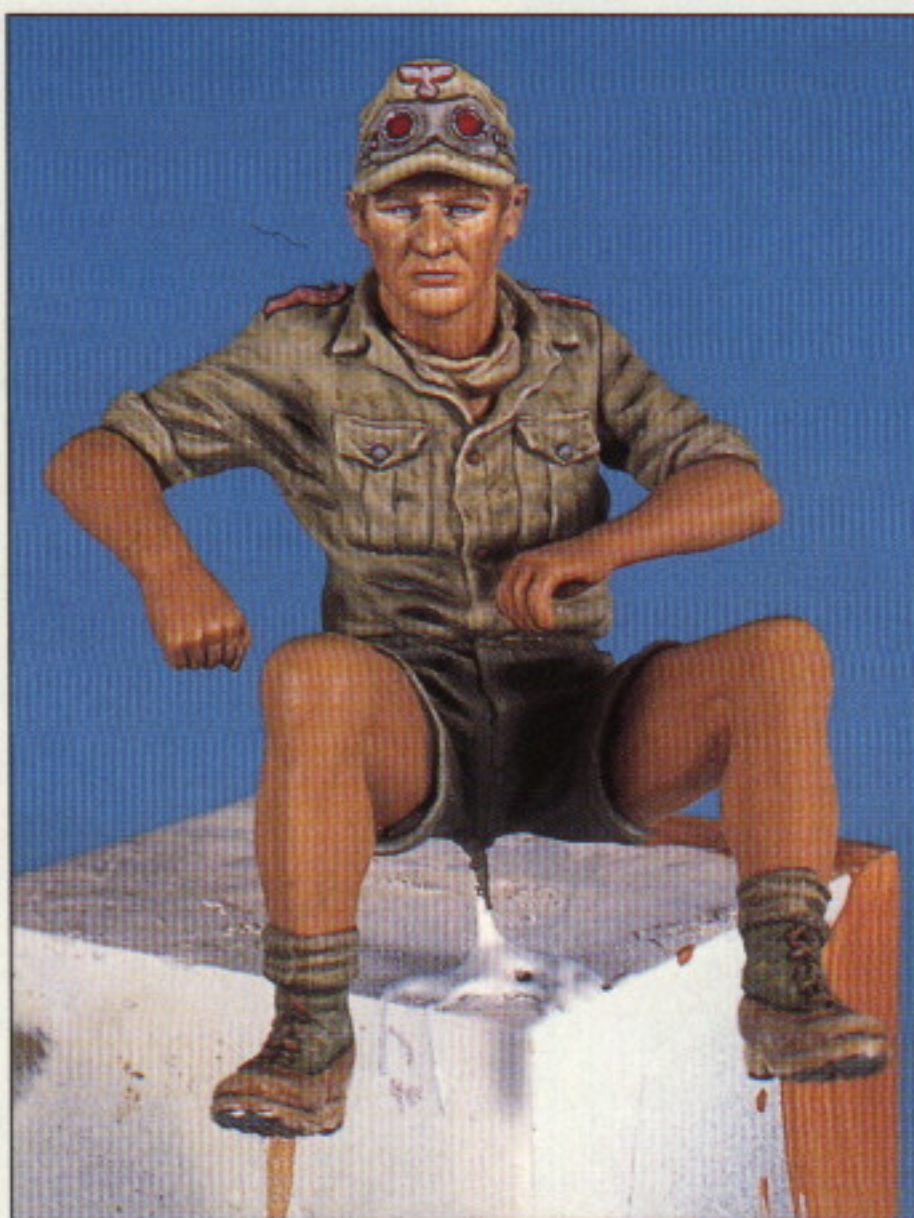
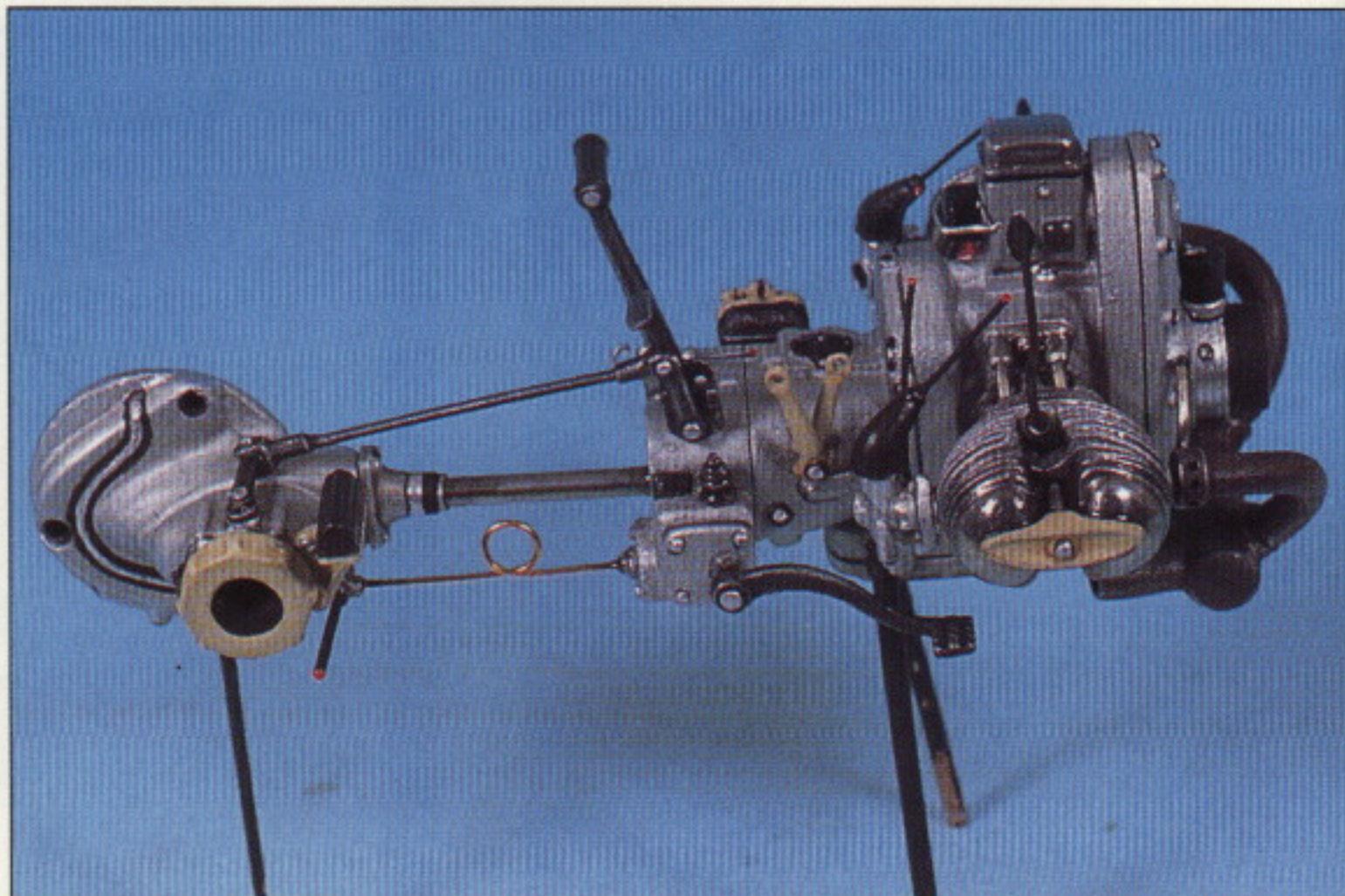
Painting the figures

Painting miniatures is always an exciting experience. There are many types of figures from the painter's point of view, depending on the quality of the sculpture, the intricacy of the design or the degree of difficulty in assembly. But it is, perhaps, the colours themselves that make the big difference amongst figures. For example, the great contrast between a colourful Napoleonic subject and a drab-coloured model in modern combat clothing is remarkable.

The motorcycle and crew could be defined as a 'symphony in ochre', because from the ground up to the soldiers' caps, it



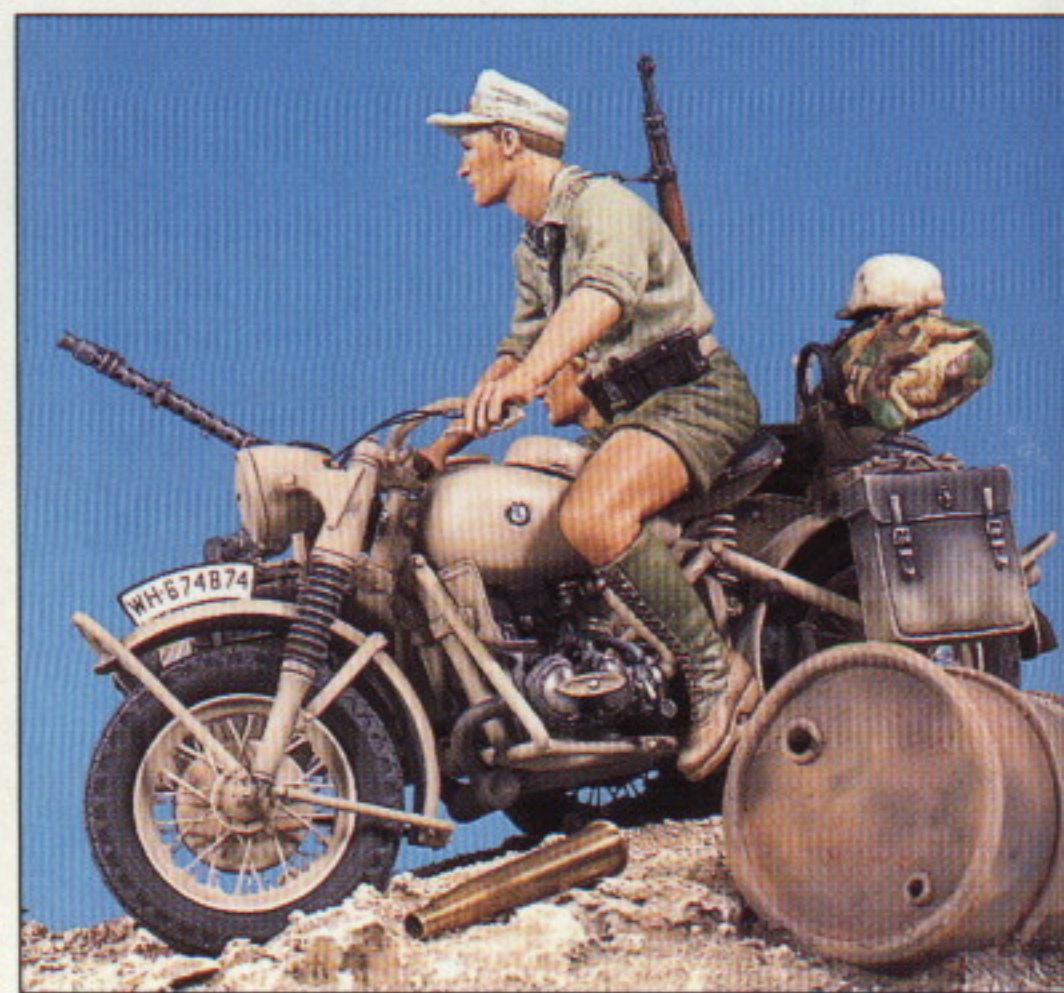
An assembled and painted engine before installation.



is difficult to see the few elements painted in other colours than the mixtures of yellow, brown and white.

We painted the figures and machine separately, but we discussed the range of colours and shades to be applied to get a balanced blend result. The combination of two different painters enriched the end result.

The figures, like the bike, were painted with Andrea Colour acrylic paints. The basic tech-



niques used with acrylics has been explained before at length in other articles published in this magazine.

The problem of painting faces with these paints can be understood easily by following the 'face map' in which the different areas are linked with the complete range of colours used in the shading and highlighting processes.

The following table details the different mixtures used for painting the figures including the base colours, lightening and shadowing with some tips when required. Remember that the main difference between painting with acrylics and traditional oils or enamels is that there is no blurring of colours on the figures, but instead, consecutive, almost transparent, thin layers of paint are used.

I hope the following colour mixes will help those assembling and painting the BMW R75 to enjoy it as much as we did.

FLESH: Base 75% AC-10 + 15% AC-18 + 10% AC-15.

Highlight: Base + 5% AC-39, 4 times as minimum, always with the same proportion.

Shade: Base + 20% AC-13, twice.

This is a special bronzed flesh colour. Keep shading colour very diluted.

SHIRT: Base 40% AC-5 + 60% AC-15.

Highlight: Base + 5% approximately AC-39, 4 times minimum.

Shade: Base + 20% AC-5, twice.

Shirts were a greenish colour and not the sand colours so frequently seen in movies.

SHOULDER STRAPS: Base 50% AC-30 + 50% AC-41.

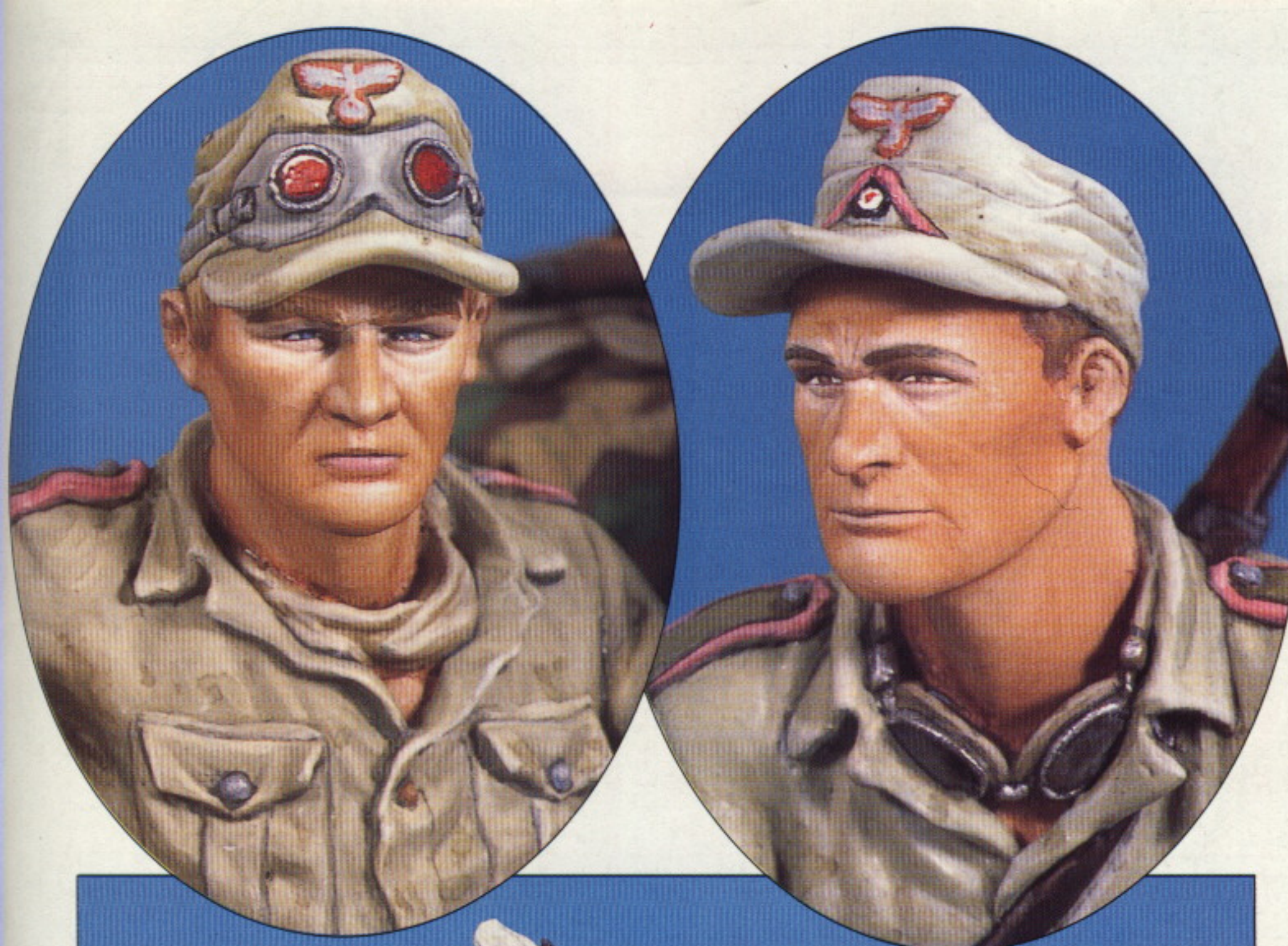
Highlight: Base 5% AC-39 only, twice.

Shade: Base + 15% AC-26.

PIPING: Base 85% AC-12 + 15% AC-16.

Highlight: Base 15% AC-6.





BUTTONS ON POCKETS AND SHOULDER STRAPS: Base 90% AC-19 + 10% AC-29.
Highlight: Base + 15% AC-6.

SHIRT BUTTONS: Base AC-41.
Highlight: Base + 15% AC-15.

TROUSERS/SHORTS: Base 70% AC-3 + 30% AC-41.
Highlight: Base + 5% AC-40. Minimum 5 times.
Shade: Base + 5% AC-2 twice.

POUCHES AND RIFLE SLING: Base 65 % AC-26 + 30% AC-43 + 5% AC-13.
Highlight: Base + 5% AC-13 no more than 3 times.
Shade: Base 5% AC-26 twice.
Medium AC-43 has to be applied to get a satin finish on leather.

BOOTS/CANVAS: Base 80% AC-3 + 20% AC-40.
Highlight: Base + 5% AC-40, 4 times.
Shade: Base + 5% AC-5 twice.

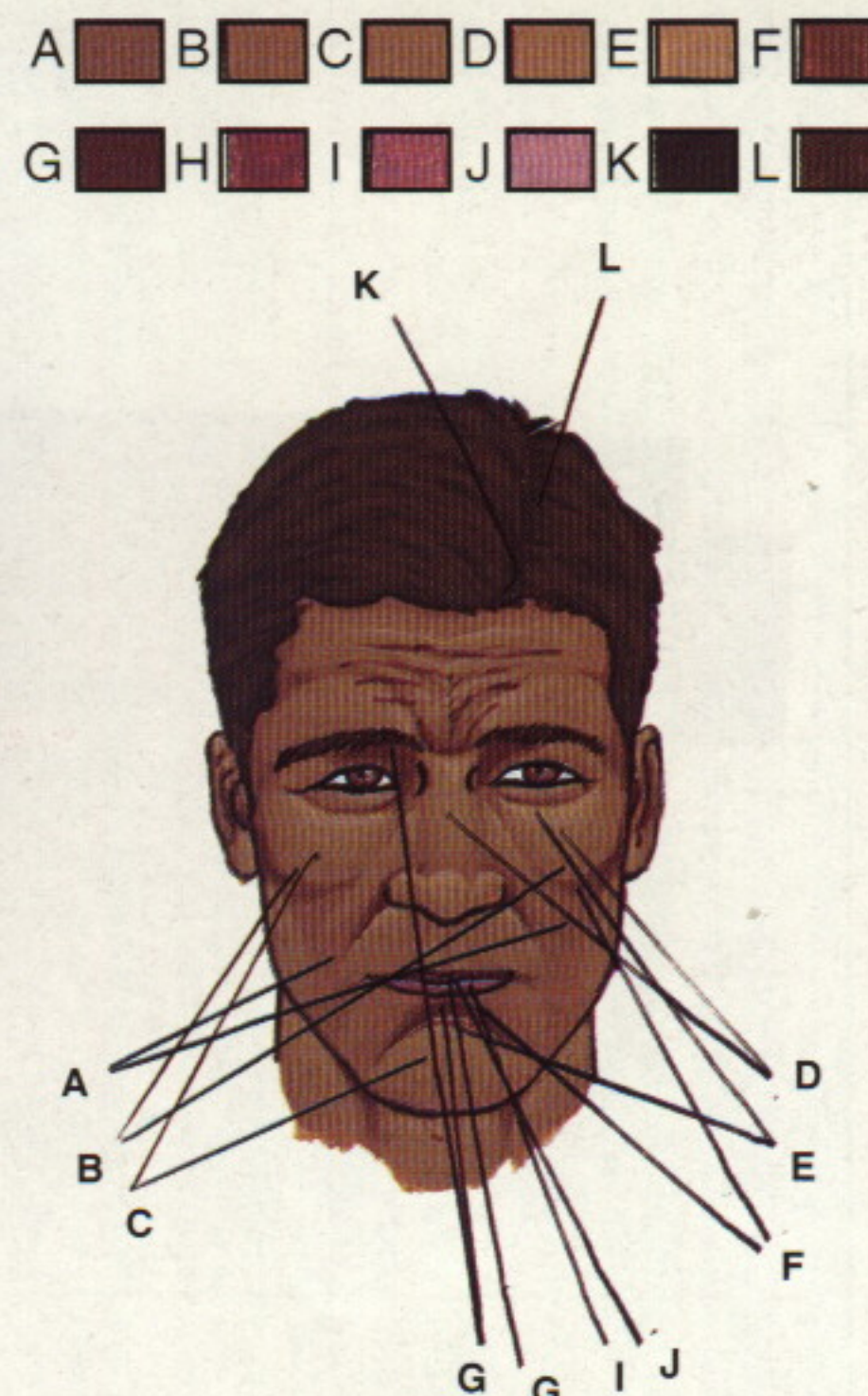
BOOTS/LEATHER: Base 30% AC-43 + 50% AC-42 + 20% AC-40.

Highlight: Base + 5% AC-15, 4 times.
Shade: Base + AC-42 5%, twice.

CAP: Base 80% AC-39 + 20% AC-3.
Highlight: Base + 5% AC-6, 4 times.
Shade: Base + 5% AC-5 twice.
Caps were usually the lightest coloured piece of dress. Soldiers used to wash them with bleach.

SOCKS: Base AC-2.
Highlight: Base + 5% AC-39 4 times.
Shade: Base + 5% AC-26 twice.
Once the socks are painted some thin and vertical lines were added for fabric effect.

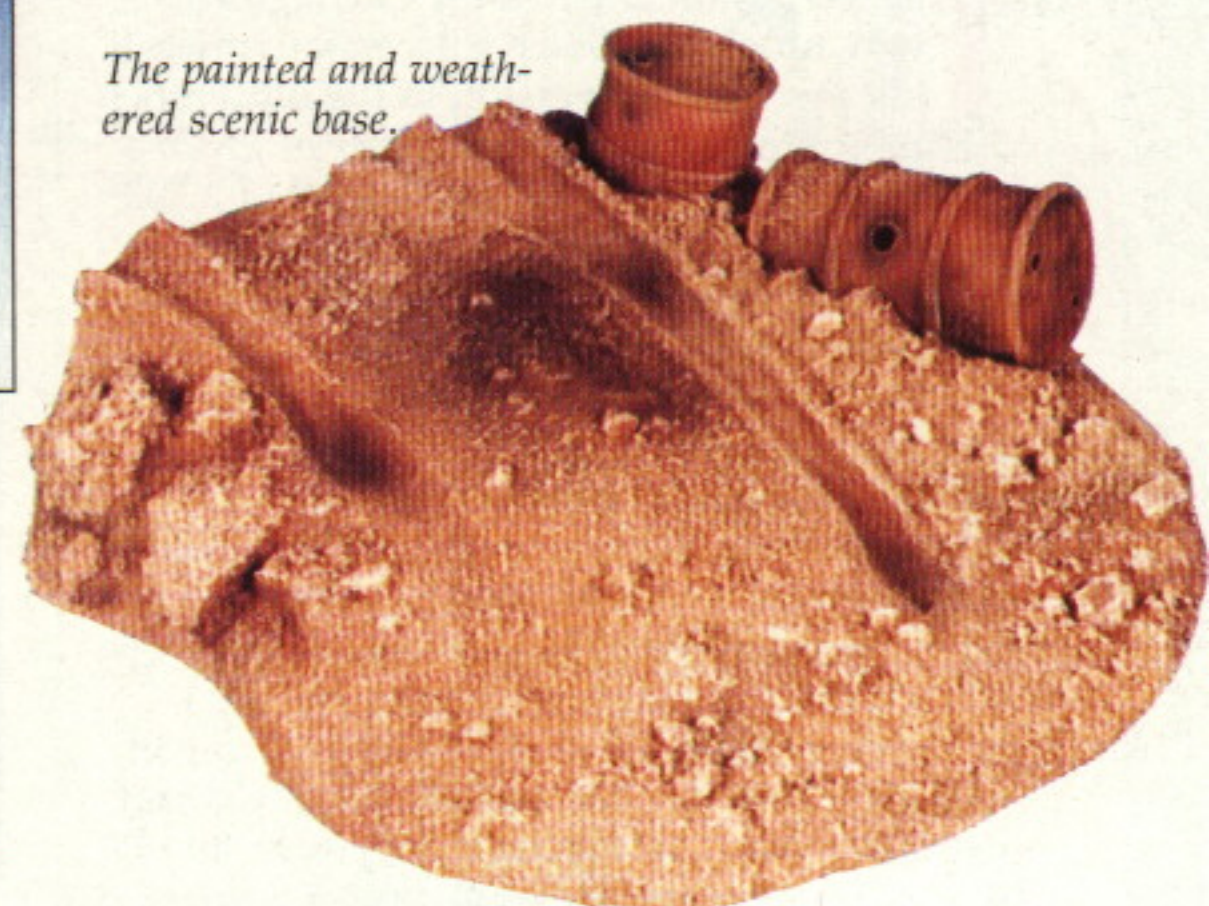
PONCHO:
Base AC-3 Olive Green.
Highlight: Base + 5% AC-8 twice.
Shade: Base + 5% AC-26.
Base AC-17 Dark Brown
Highlight: Base + 5% AC-41 twice.
Shade: Base + 5% AC-26.
Base: AC-2 English Khaki.
50% AC-3 + AC-39.
Highlight: Base + 5% AC-39, twice.
Shade: Base + 5% AC-2.



Face Map Colour Key (Andrea Colour acrylic paints)

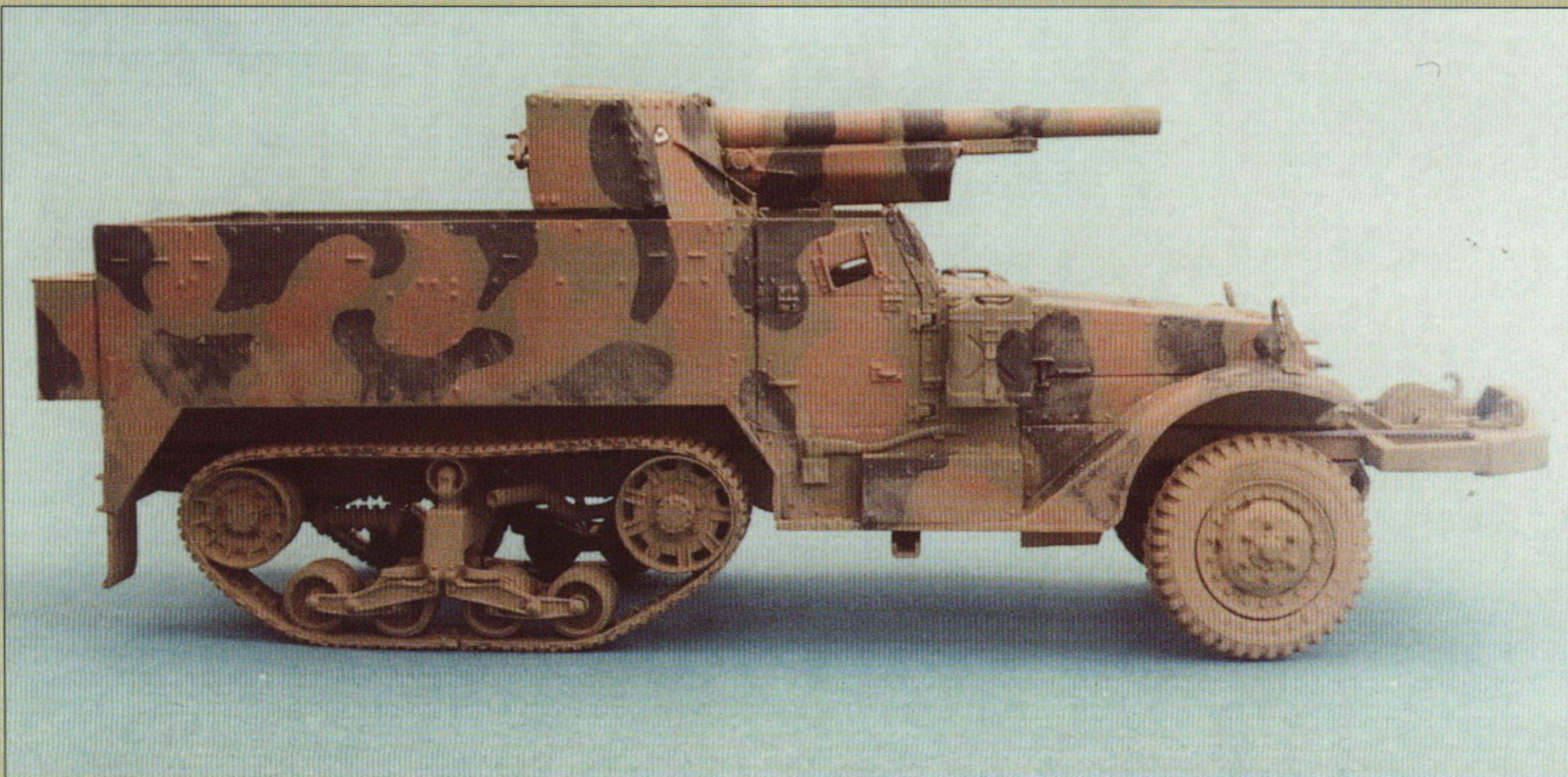
- A. Flesh: Base 75% AC-10 + 15% AC-18 + 10% AC-15.
- B. 1A increase highlight with base + 5% AC-39.
- C. 2A + 5% AC-39.
- D. 3A + 5% AC-39.
- E. 4A + 5% AC-39.
- F. Shade: Base + 20% AC-13.
- G. 1A Shade + 10% AC-13.
- H. Lips: Base 50% AC-14 + 50% Base.
- I. 1A Highlight 5% AC-6.
- J. 2A Highlight 5% AC-6.
- K. Eyebrow: Base AC-17.
- L. Base + 5% AC-33 (increase one or more times depending on your taste).

The painted and weathered scenic base.



ENTRENCHING TOOL:
Metal: Base 75% AC-27 25% + AC-29.
Highlight: Base + 5% AC-29, 3 times.
Shade: Base + 5% AC-27, twice.
Wooden shaft: Base AC-40.
Highlight Base + 5% AC-39, twice.
Straps: - 75% AC-40 + 25% AC-42.
Highlight: Base + 5% AC-40, 4 times.
Shade: Base + 5% AC-42, twice.

Andrea kits, accessories and acrylic paints are available from Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ. The motorcycle and sidecar kit costs £175 post free and Andrea acrylic colours (50 in the range) are £1.15 each. A full list is available from Historex Agents on receipt of a sae. ■



Half-track with a Punch

John Prigent builds a 1:35 scale M3 75mm Gun Motor Carriage using Kendall Model Company's conversion parts on a Tamiya half-track kit

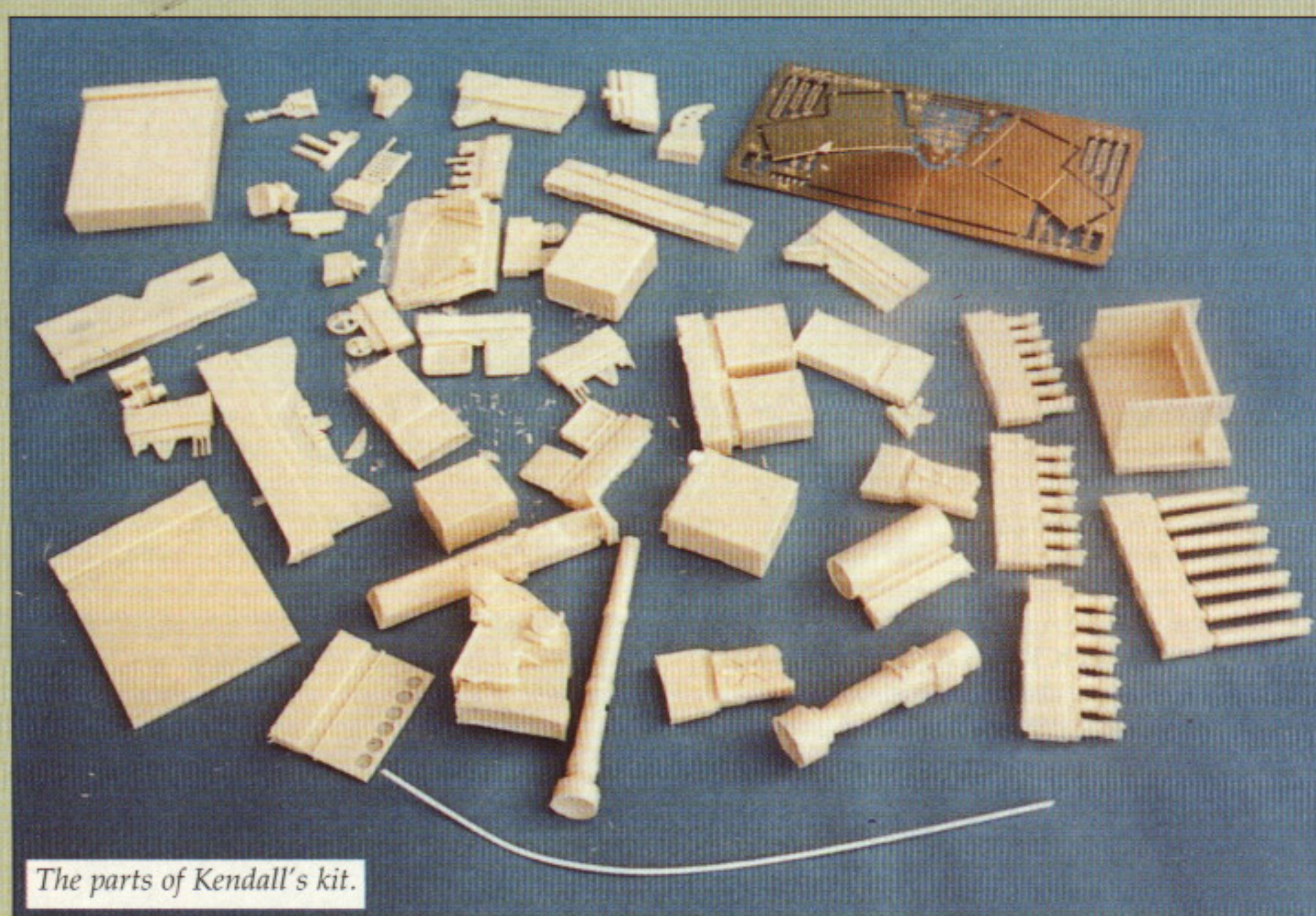
The M3 75mm Gun Motor Carriage was very much a full-size conversion, mounting the US-built version of the old French 75mm gun on an M3 half-track to produce a self-propelled anti-tank gun. A total of 2,202 were built, making it the most numerous half-track variant after the M3 personnel carrier itself.

It saw service with the US Army in the Philippines fighting of 1942 and in Tunisia, with the support companies of British Armoured Car Regiments in Italy and North-West Europe, and with the US Marines in the island-hopping Pacific campaign. This gives a fair variety of finishes to choose from!

The new Kendall Model Company conversion kit comes in resin and etched brass, and to build it you'll also need the Tamiya kit of the M21 mortar carrier - sometimes hard to find, but worth seeking out for this conversion because Tamiya's other US half-track kits have different rear bodies. Their M16 kit has lowered flaps on the body sides and rear, provided on the real thing to allow for traverse of its gun mount, and their M3A2 has so much moulded detail to remove that, in both cases, it's easier to make new sides and rear from plastic card - so look for the M21 instead and save some work.

First steps

The chassis can be built as set out in Tamiya's instructions, but leave off the winch and its drive shaft unless, like me, you fancy building one of the few M3 GMCs to carry a winch. If you do, leave the drive shaft off



The parts of Kendall's kit.

until the cab is fitted - it has to go through a hole in the radiator which is tricky to fit over it, but it pops into place easily at a later stage.

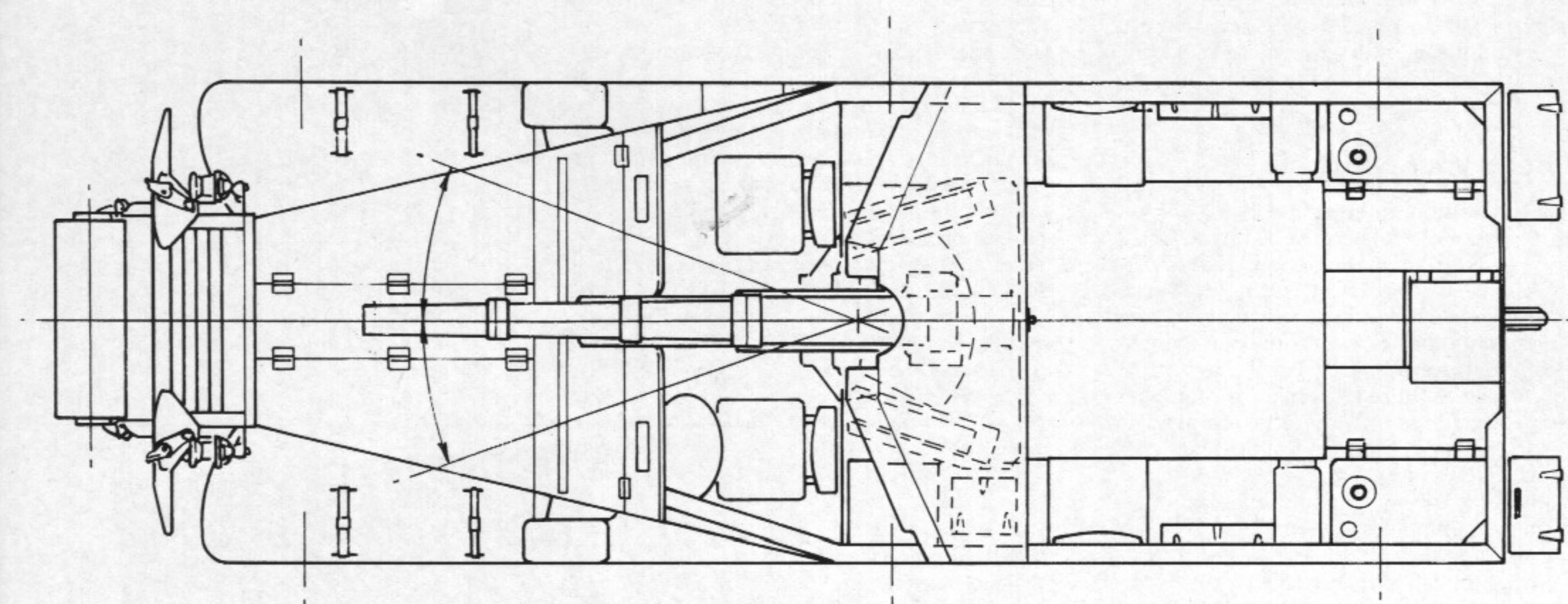
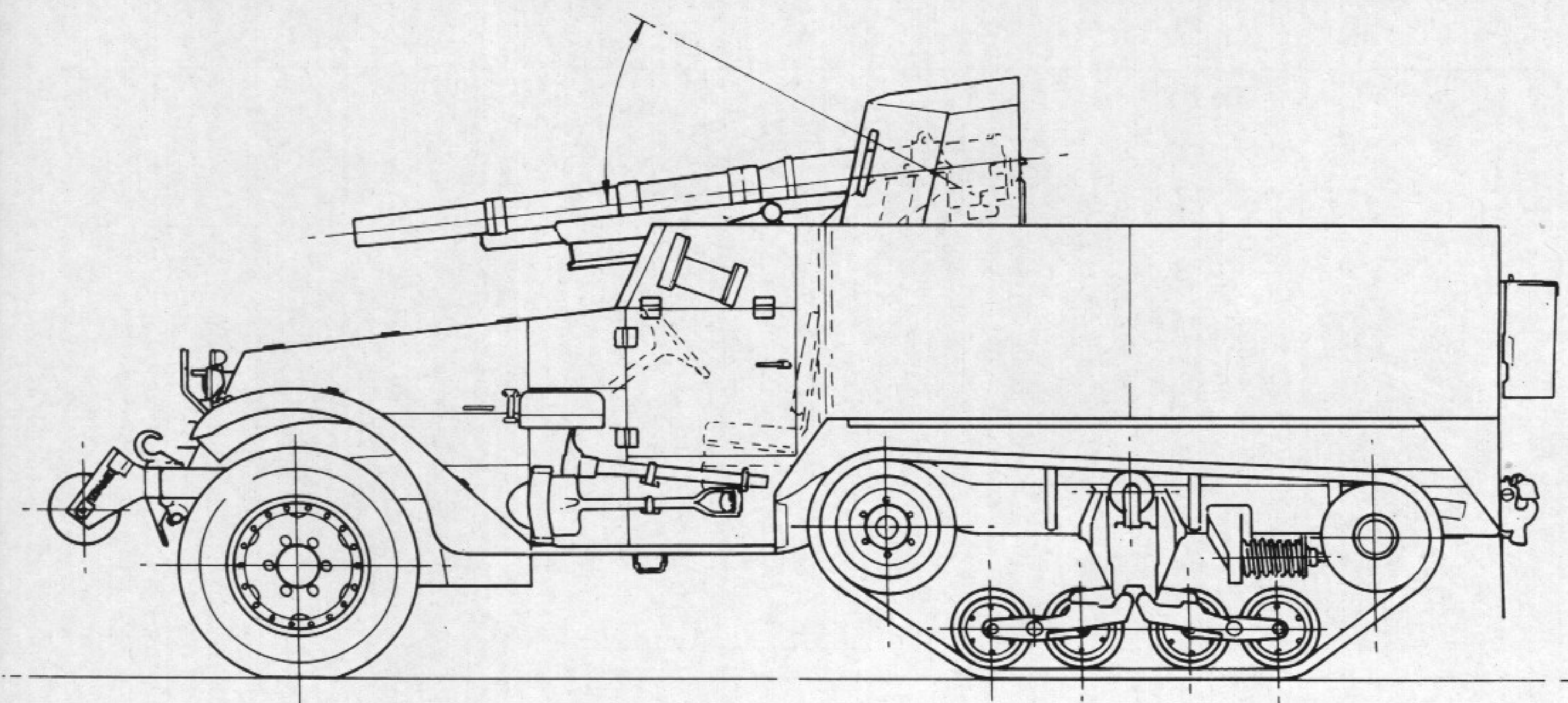
Kendall provide a resin front roller and its mounts, which I dry-fitted for one of my photos to show you how good it looks. If you use this the horizontal plates on the front of the chassis must be removed, as they weren't used with the roller.

The cab is built straight from the Tamiya box, except that its armoured windscreen is replaced with Kendall's resin part. This reproduces the type fitted to the M3 GMC, hinged at the bottom instead of the top. Kendall provide neat, photo-etched brass hinges to fit against it if you fit it in the up position. Unfortunately it isn't a perfect fit that way, being a straightforward oblong

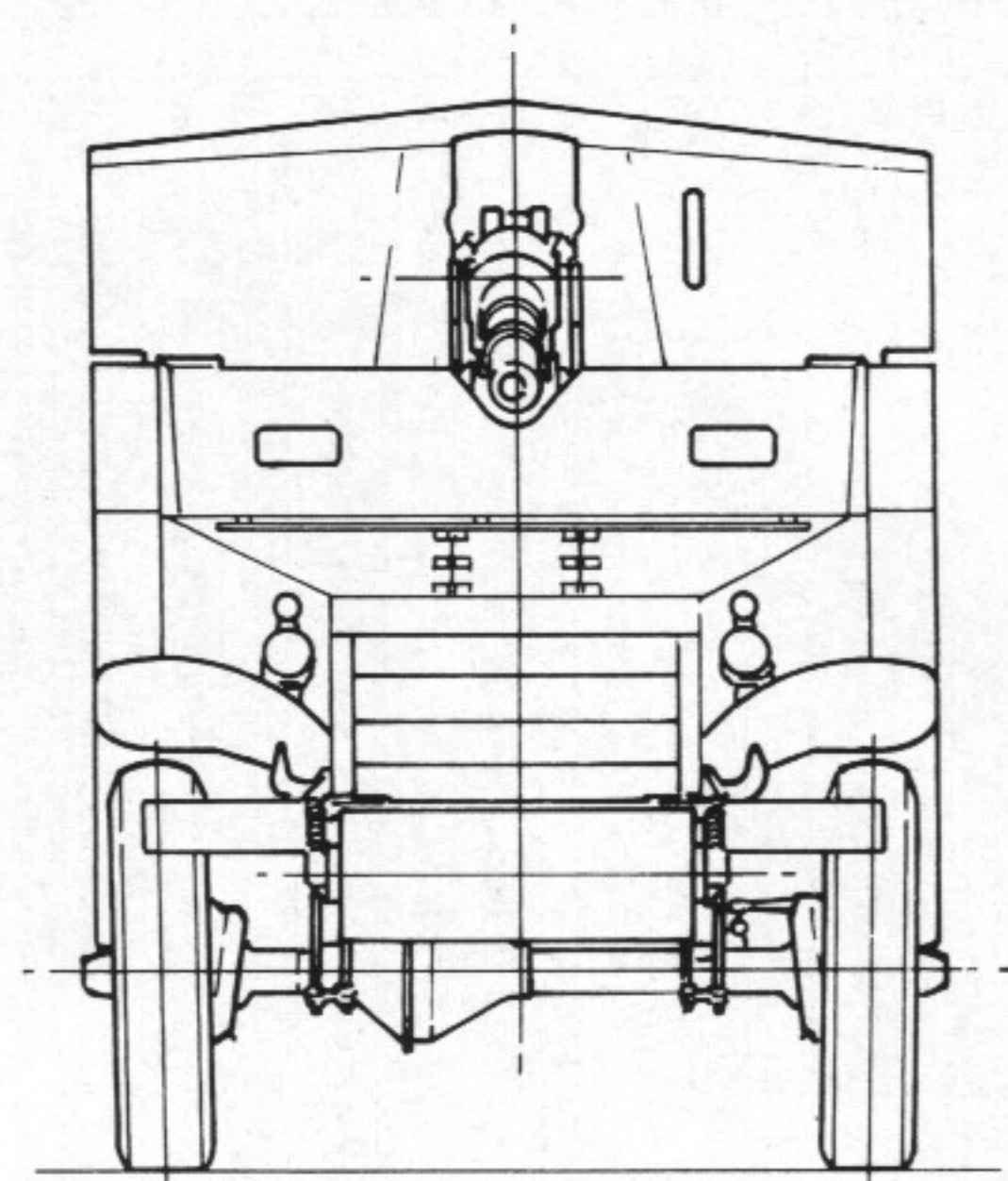
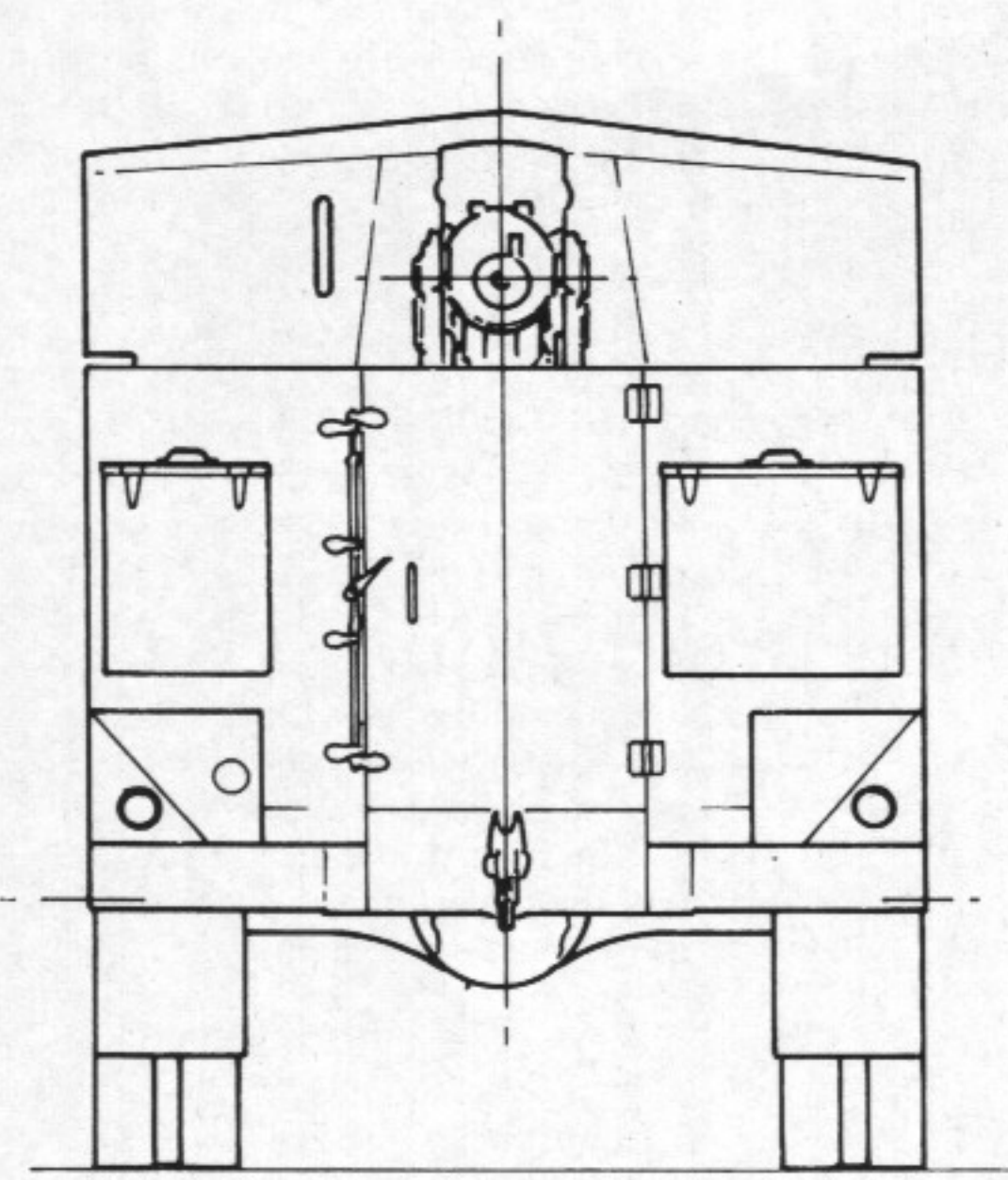
although its sides should slant to fit the cab front, but this isn't really noticeable so I didn't modify it. If you want the windscreen dropped ready for action, you'll need to modify Tamiya's screen side pillars which have a triangular section to fit their glazed screen surround (which isn't used for the M3 GMC). Cement plastic strip to them, let the cement dry, and then file the pillars to a square section.

No changes

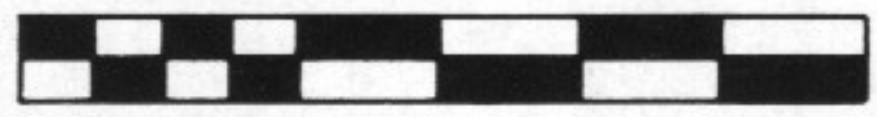
The cab needs no changes on the inside, and the instrument panel paints up nicely. Note that the American dial faces were white with black needles and markings, not like modern car instruments with black faces and white

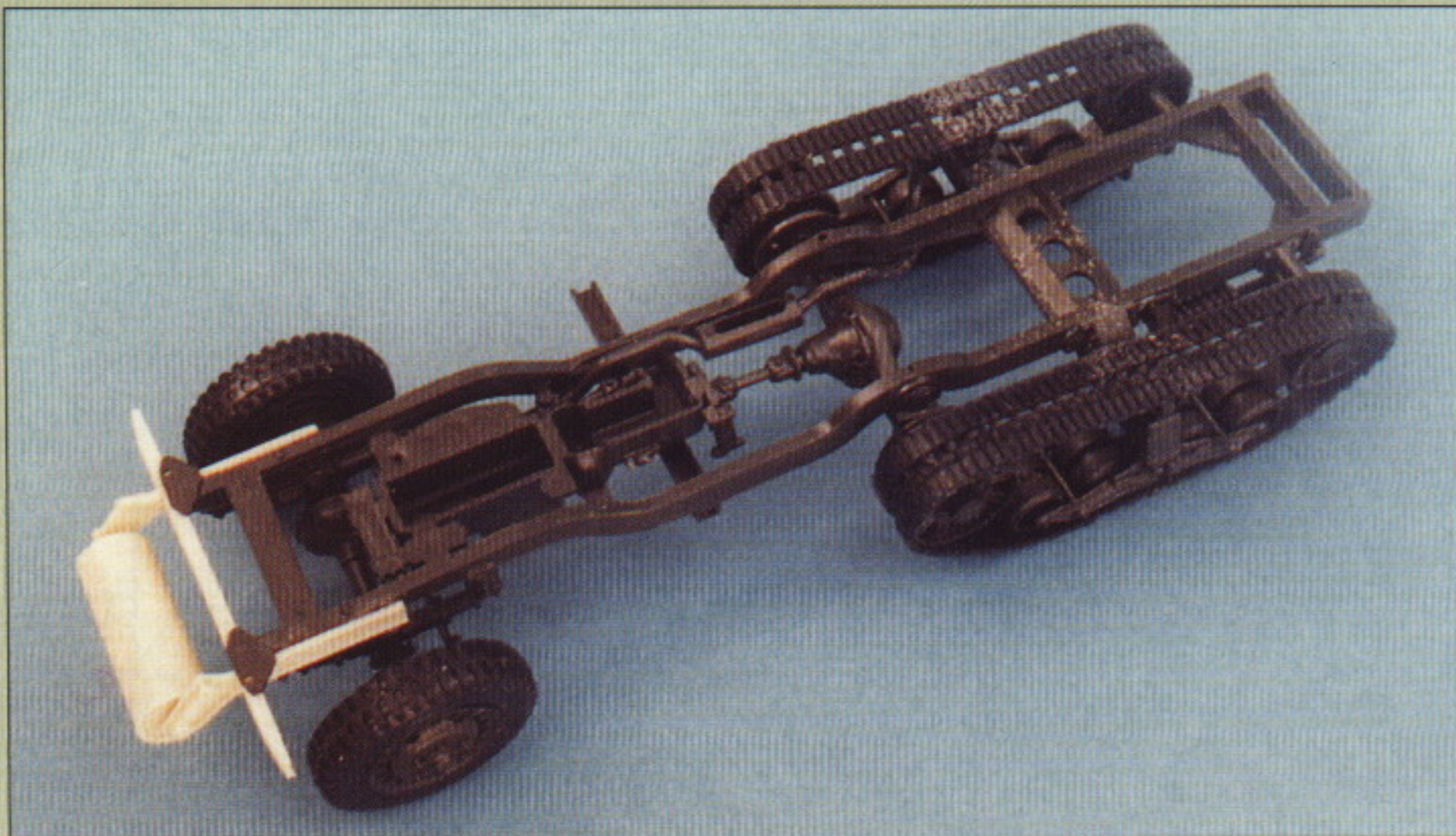


CARRIAGE, MOTOR, 75mm GUN, M3A1



Drawn by Grahame Chambers





The M3 chassis is built as supplied by Tamiya except that the plates at its front should not be removed if you're using the front roller assembly provided by Kendall - the tow hooks go on them for this version.

markings. The seats should be khaki or perhaps light olive drab cloth, the gear levers had black knobs, and the rest is olive drab. You'll find it easiest to leave off the steering wheel (probably also black) until the rest of the cab interior is painted.

Altering your body!

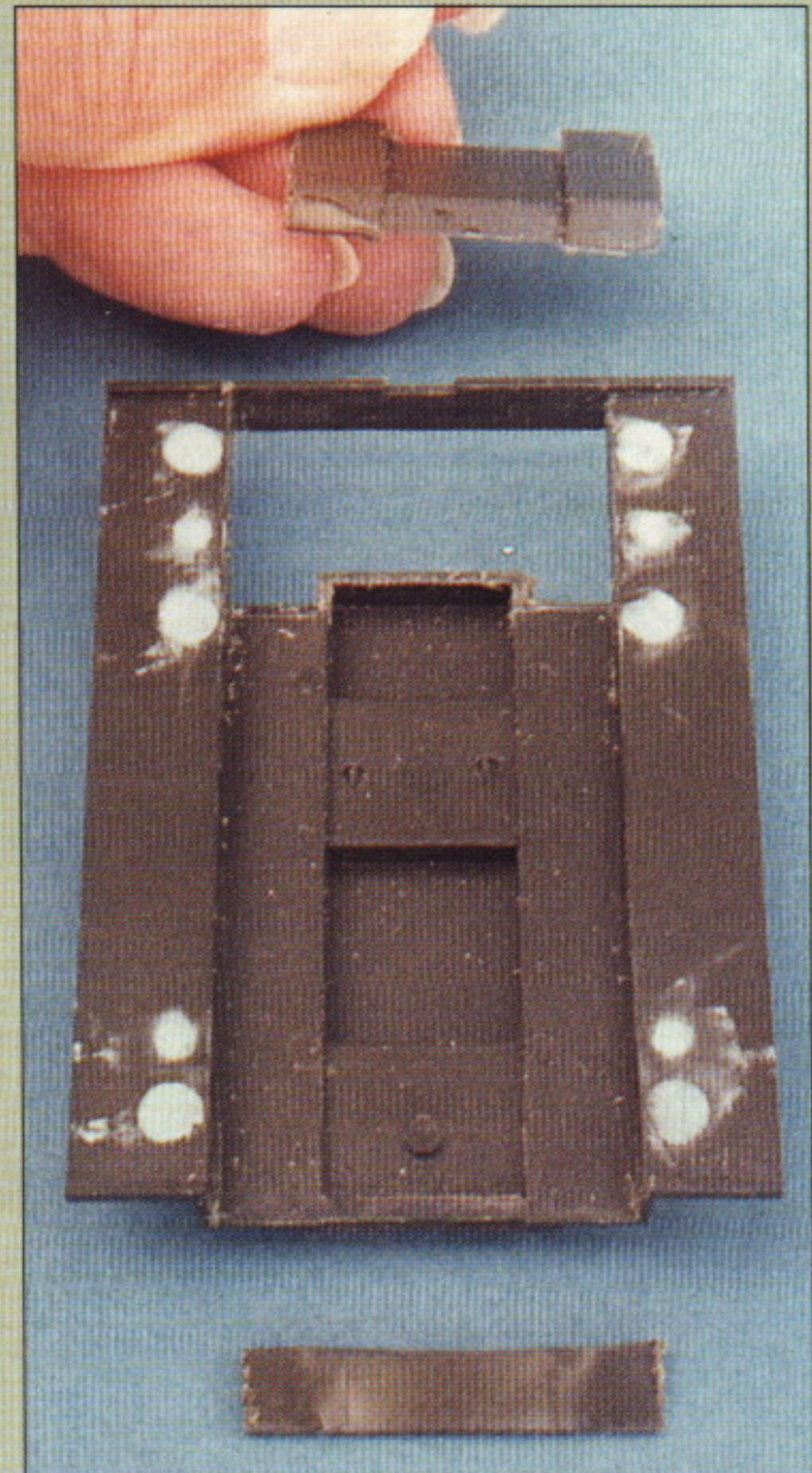
No, not a session in the gym! Here's where you need some care, because Tamiya's body floor has to be cut so the Kendall parts can fit. First, do the easy bit by cutting the back wall as shown in Kendall's instructions - and do note that the back wall is the one without a notch in its top - I nearly cut the wrong end, which would have been a disaster! Saw down each side of the area to be removed, then scribe across between the saw cuts with a sharp blade guided against a steel ruler. Finally, snap the surplus section away and file the remaining edge flat.

Now you'll have to cut away a section of the actual floor. This is not so easy, but tackling a bit at a time makes it fairly straightforward. Use your saw at an angle and cut from under the floor to remove as much as you can - I can't give precise directions where to cut, just study the part and saw slowly! Take care to leave the front uncut, and as much as

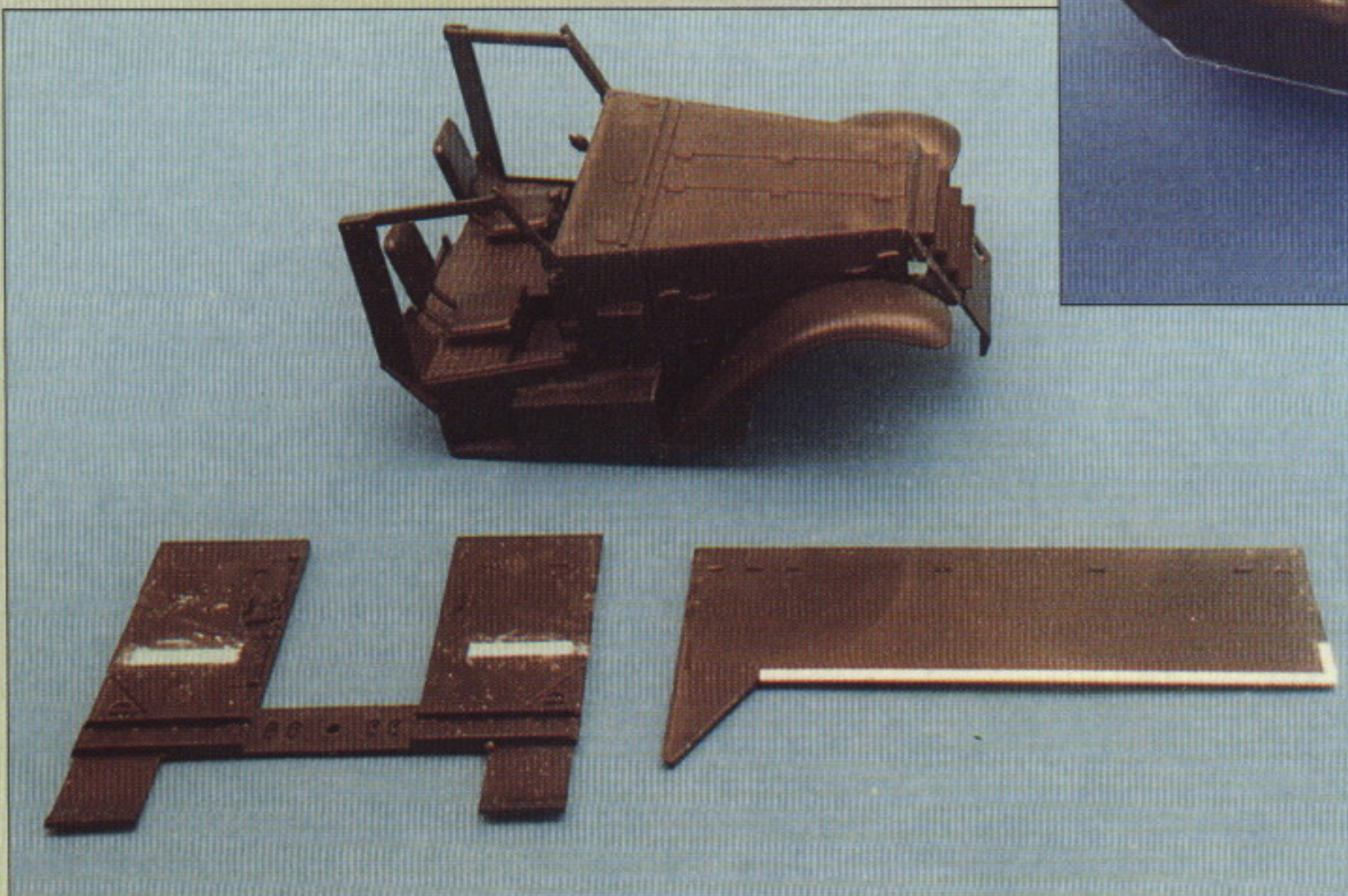
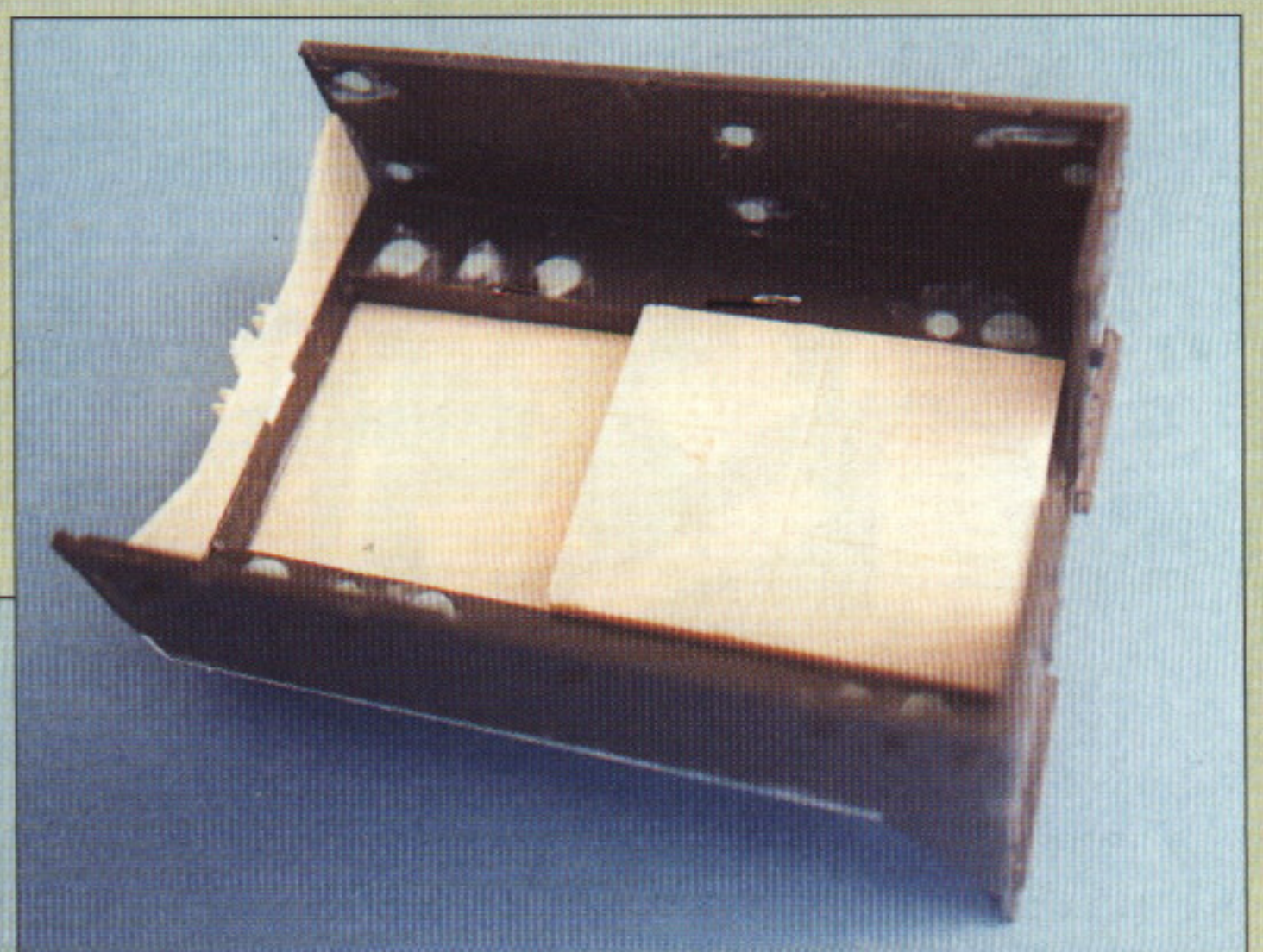
you can of the centre floor which you'll need to support the resin floor. When you've sawn all you can reach, scribe the rest with your knife blade before snapping the surplus away and smoothing the edge.

Fill the mould ejector pin marks in the plastic, then fit Kendall's floor sections. Finally, cement plastic card into that notch in the front wall to fill it. Now you can set to work on the sides and rear. Remove the 'hinges' on them as shown in Kendall's instructions and use strips of plastic card to fill the locations for the mine racks which few M3 GMCs carried - unless you're modelling one from a photograph which shows them fitted, of course. Fill the ejector pin marks inside these pieces and

BELOW: Kendall warn you that some filling is needed on the rear plate and radiator housing. For some reason they don't mention the need to fill the mine rack locations on the sides.

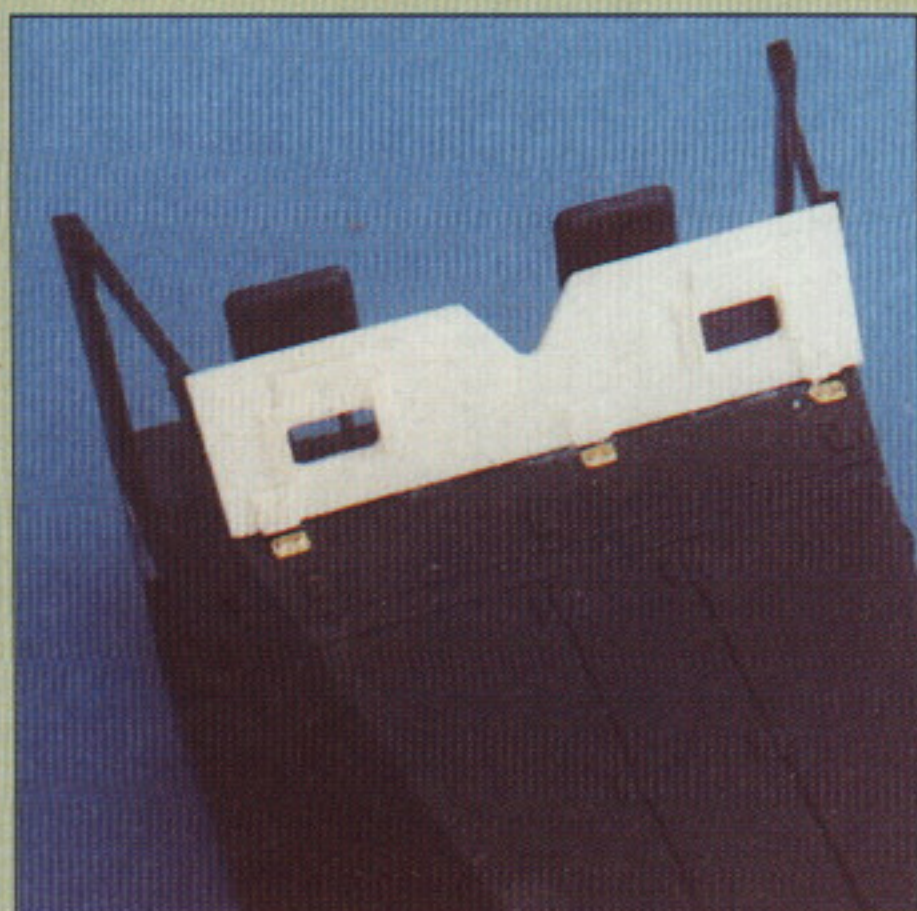


ABOVE: The rear floor has to be modified before the Kendall resin floor parts can be fitted; here's a view showing which bits need to be cut away. BELOW: The rear hull with Kendall's floor and front plates.

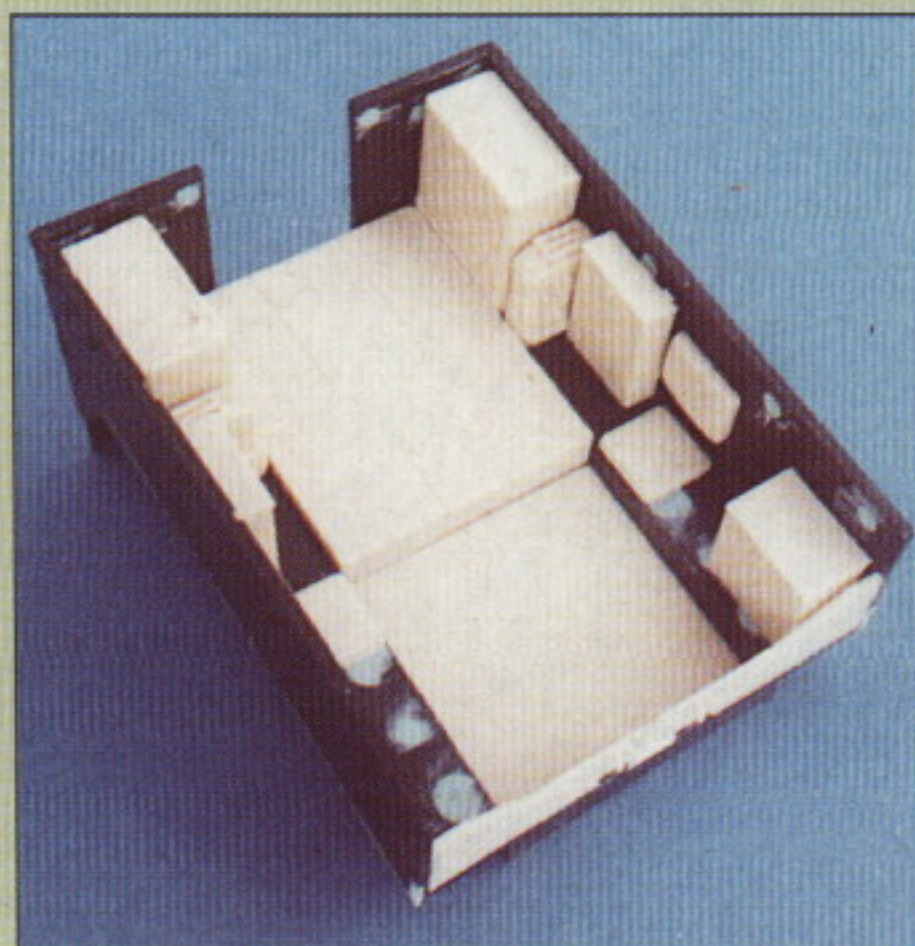


add them to the floor, then fix Kendall's resin front wall in place.

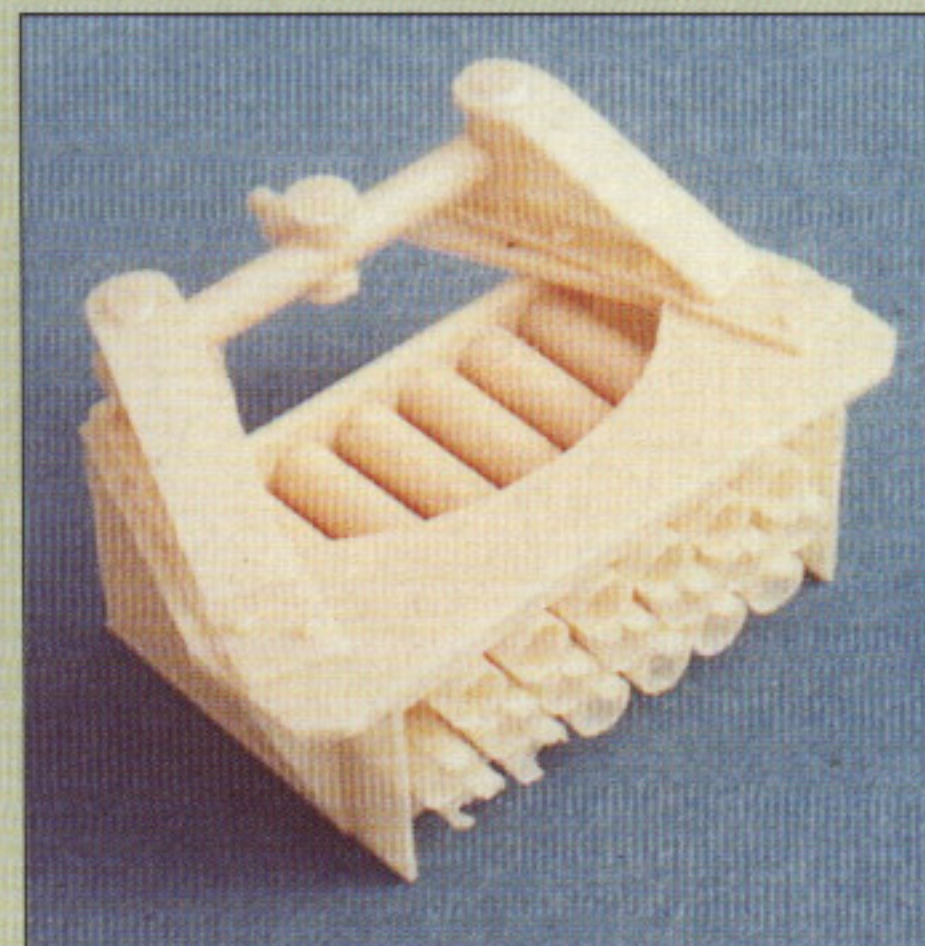
Remove the unused locating ribs inside the body, then add the new fuel tanks and other fittings - the two filler caps on each tank are different sizes, the larger ones going to the inside. You'll need to trim the outside bottom edges of the tanks and jerrycans to fit over the floor's locating ribs - just file a chamfer along them, it won't show when everything's in place. Now cement the cab to the body and paint all the undersides and chassis. I used Humbrol 29 Dark Earth overall to model a dirty vehicle, but use 155 Olive Drab if you prefer a clean one. Paint inside the



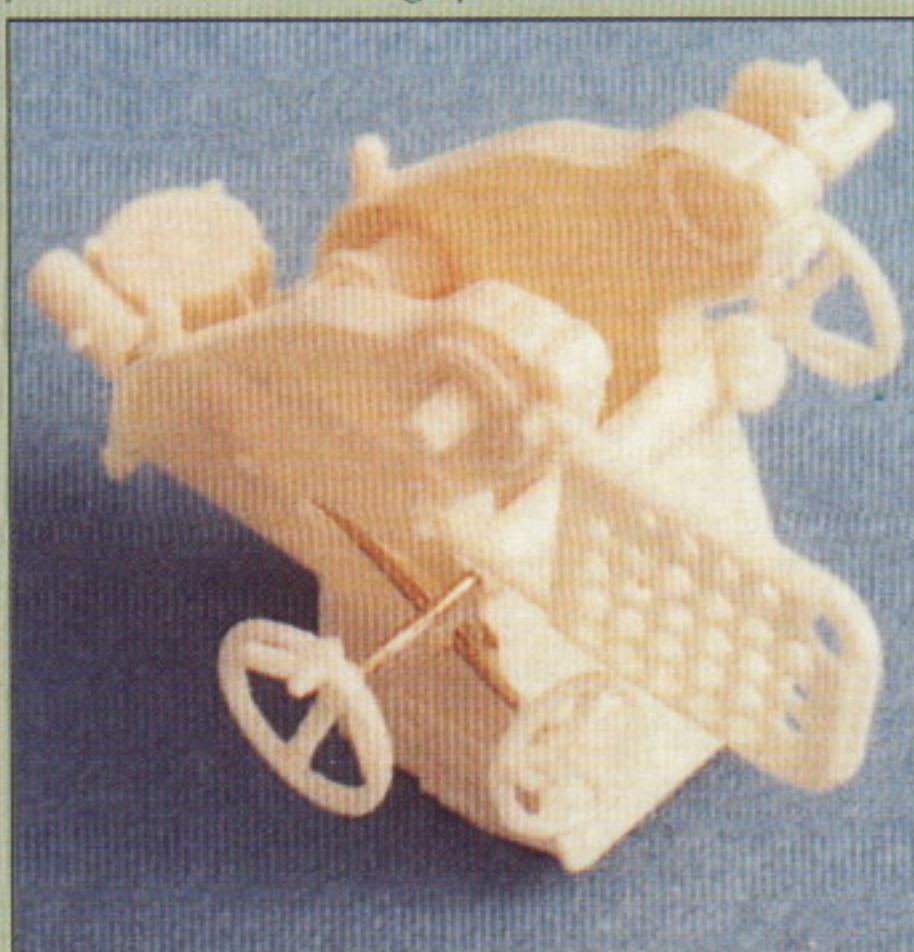
Here's the resin windscreen in place, with its photo etched brass hinge plates.



The completed rear interior looks very good. This shot also shows which ejector pin marks need to be filled!



The gun mount is easy to build once you've figured it out.



Here's the completed cradle.

body now, in Olive Drab, as you won't be able to reach all the nooks and crannies once the gun is in place.

Give it the gun!

The main section of the gun mount has a casting block which needs careful sawing to remove, but the front plate just needs to be scored along the joint and snapped off its block. The top section is on a flat casting block, which needs to be removed until all that is left is a 'U' shape all on one level. Use wet'n'dry paper with plenty of water and sand with a figure-of-eight motion to keep the bottom flat - check often to make sure you're not taking more off one side than the other, and turn the part round to finish sanding if you are.

Do not clean out the holes in the front plate, they are not really holes filled with flash, but locations for the ends of the ammo stowage tubes. Take care removing those ammo tubes



The completed barrel assembly shows where the sight mount goes.

from their casting blocks, it's easy to crush their fragile open ends as I found out. Fortunately Kendall give plenty of spares!

You will have noticed that there is no marked location in the mount for the front plate. This isn't a problem: super-glue the short tubes to the rear of the mount, add the long ones with their ends lined up with the short ones, then position the front plate with the ends of the long tubes in the 'holes' and "Bob's your uncle!" Add the top plate and the cross-piece which the actual gun fits onto, and paint the assembly. Note how the tubes fit, with the tabs on the long ones and the short ones of the middle row pointing down and those of the bottom row pointing up - mine are wrong as I misread the instructions, so don't copy my photograph! The ammo



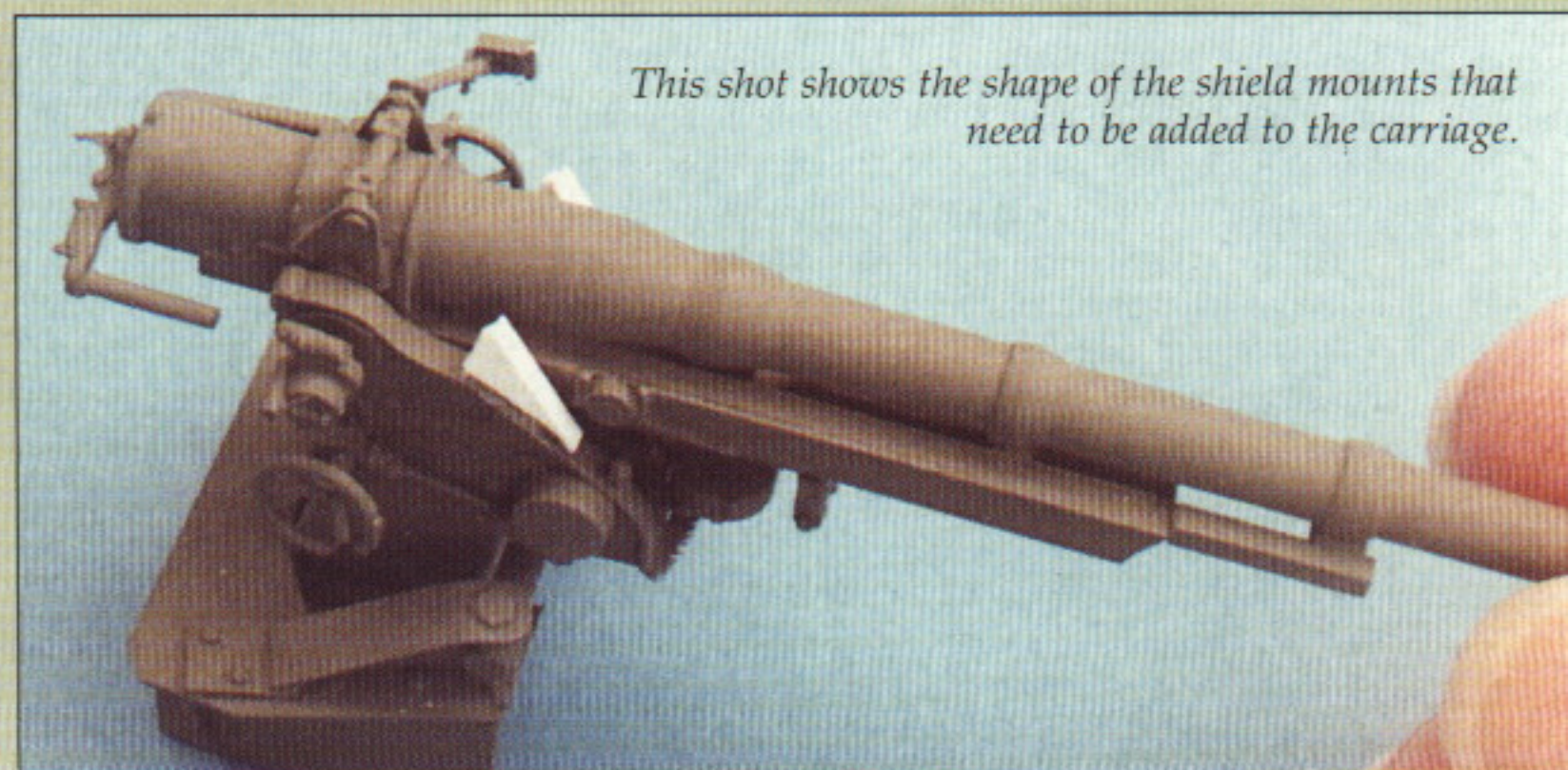
The open breech - note how the handle parts fit.

tubes are empty, but if you want a fully-stowed GMC it should be simple to add shell ends to the tubes.

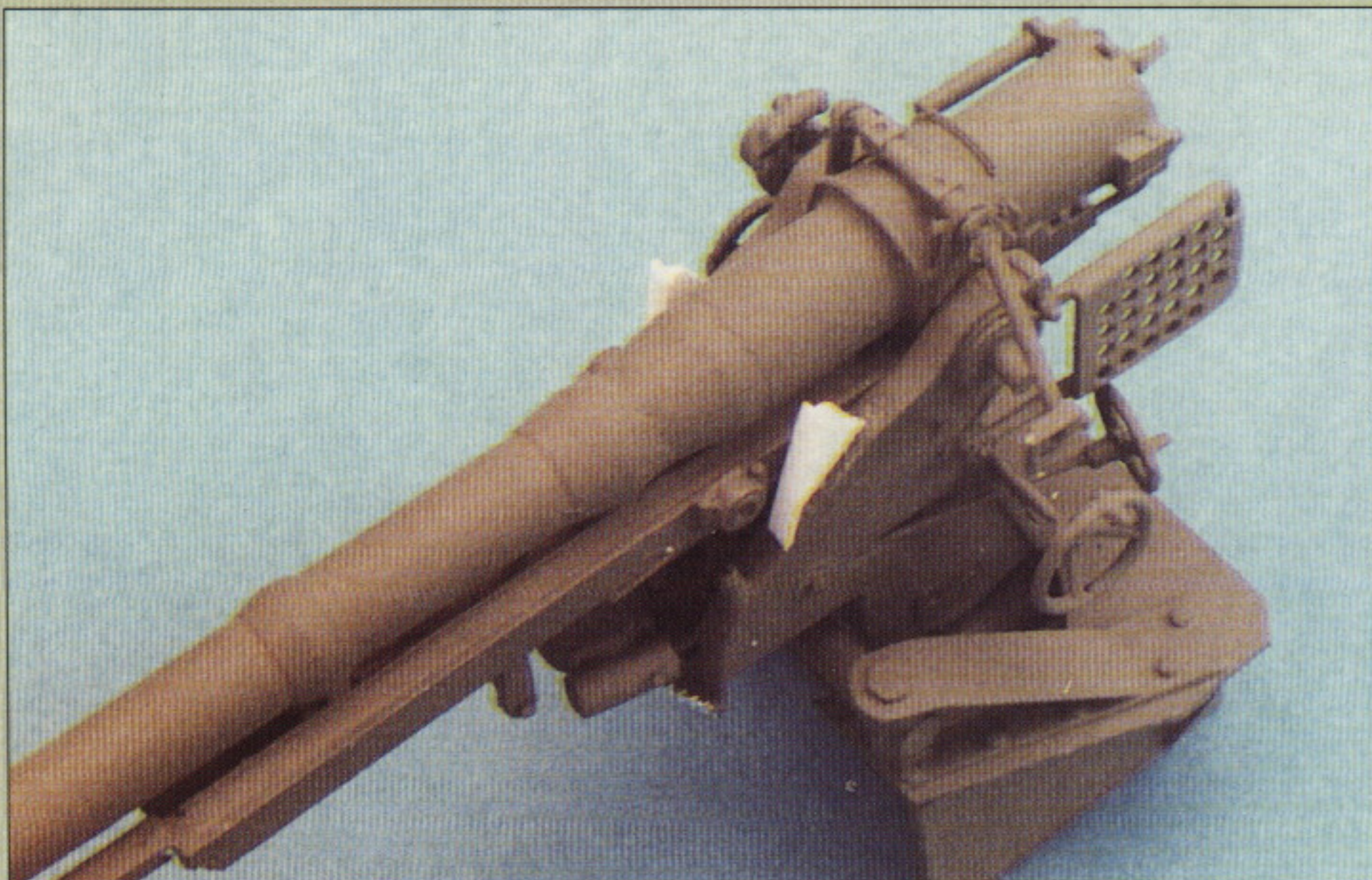
Now for the gun cradle. Again, there's an awkward casting block to remove; saw it away in sections and pare off the remaining stub with your knife - there's no need for precision as the bottom of the carriage will be hidden inside the gun mount. You may need to re-cut the slot in the back where the elevation arc goes through the cradle; test fit to see when you've built the gun slide. The traverse gearbox goes on top, hanging over the front, and the traverse arc simply glues underneath



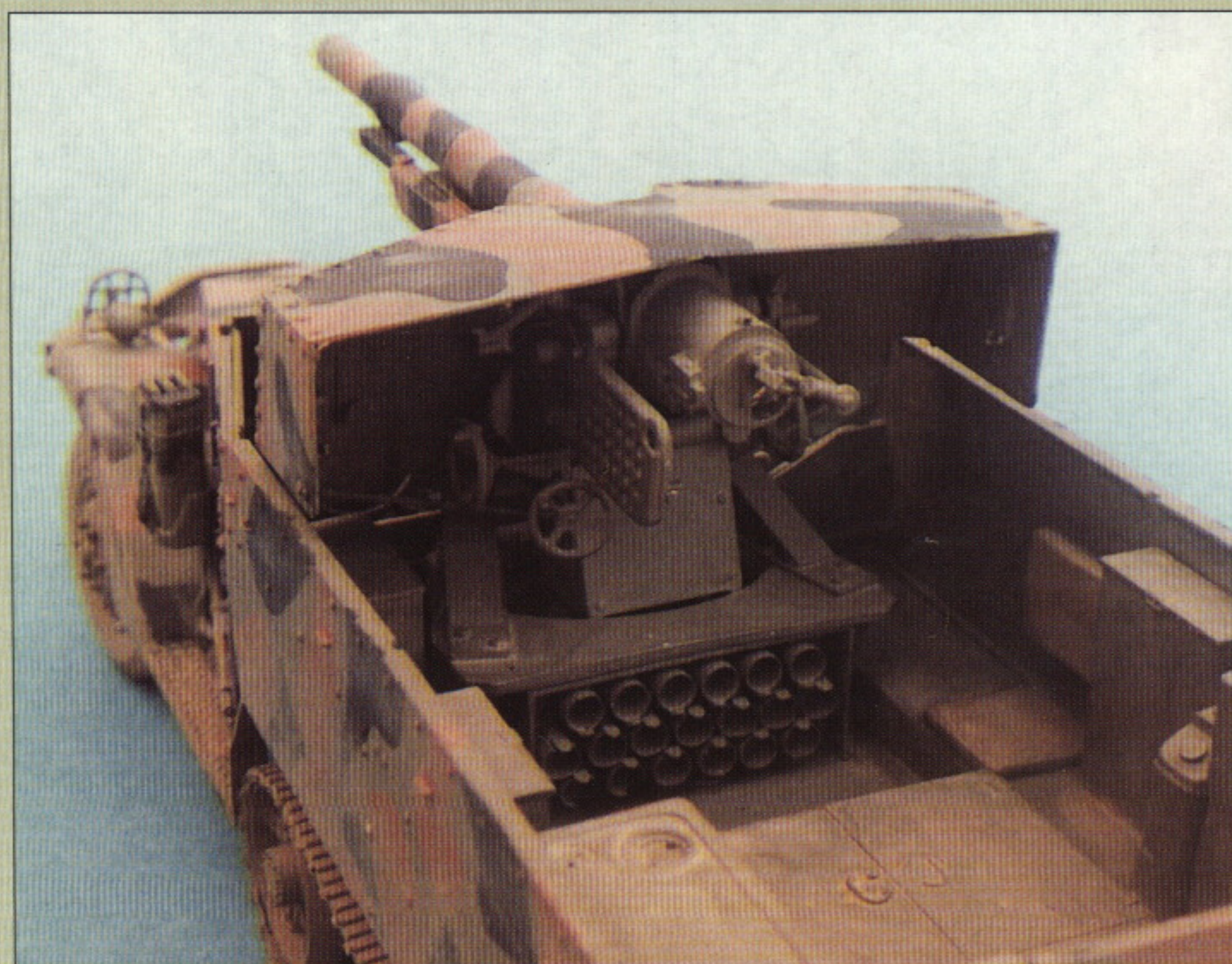
The gun travel lock and the inside of the shield.



This shot shows the shape of the shield mounts that need to be added to the carriage.



ABOVE: Here's the arrangement of the sight mount. BELOW: A view into the rear hull.



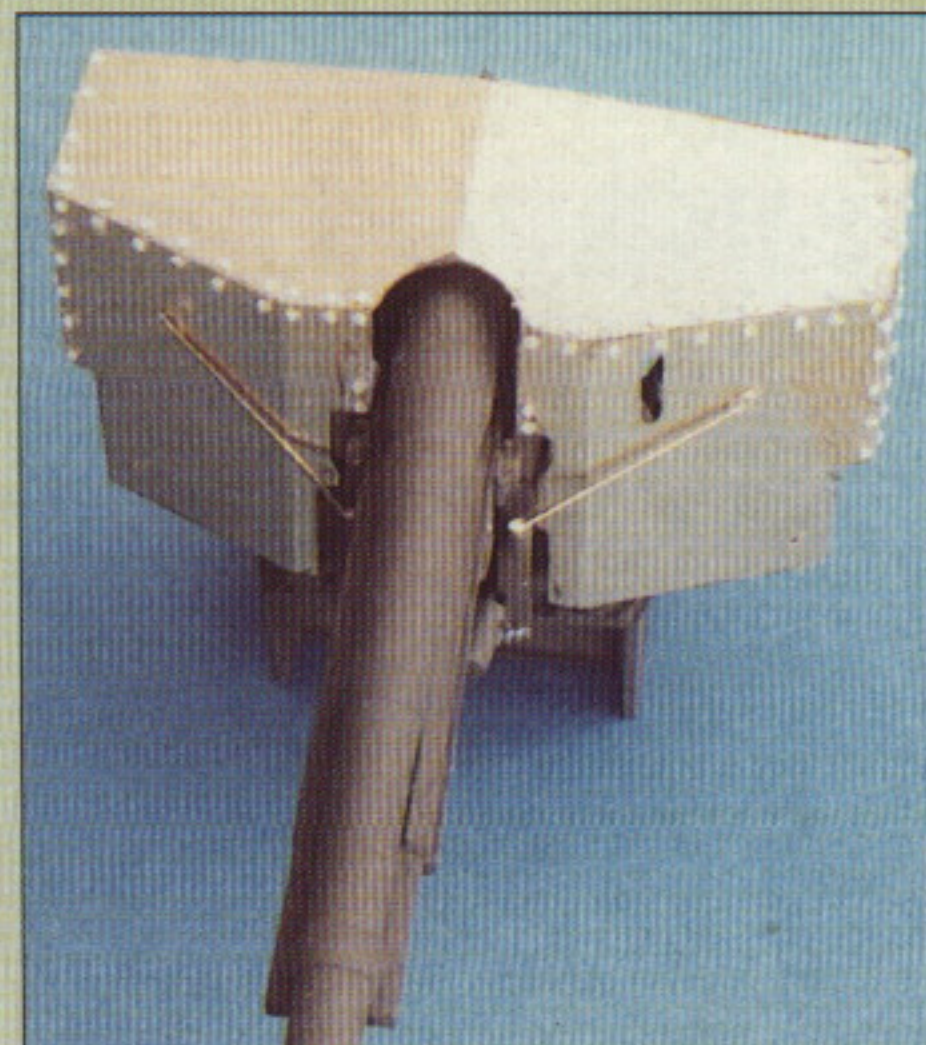
it. Kendall doesn't provide anything to hold it to the gun mount, but I've no information on what should be there and it isn't really visible when the model is completed. Dry-fit a straight length of wire through the slot on the port side and check that it will go into the locating hole of the traverse gear - if not, lengthen the slot until it does.

The gun tube is in two parts, so take care to line these up. Mine didn't fit properly on the recoil slide, so I added slips of plastic card under the barrel bands to lift the barrel and keep it in line, then a touch of filler to blend them in. Kendall gives the breech in its open position, with an alternative part if you want it closed - just file the back of the block flat and fit the new part on it. Either way, three small parts build the operating mechanism as in my photo. Add the triangular parts (41) to the top of the barrel, making sure that they don't prevent its trunnions fitting into the cradle, then add part 37 between them with the holes in its square blocks pointing to the rear. Fix the travel lock, part 32, under the slide, just in front of the raised section, and the block, part 38, to the side of the breech. Find a bit of wire to make the connection from this block to the barrel, and some brass rod for the hand-wheel shafts - the

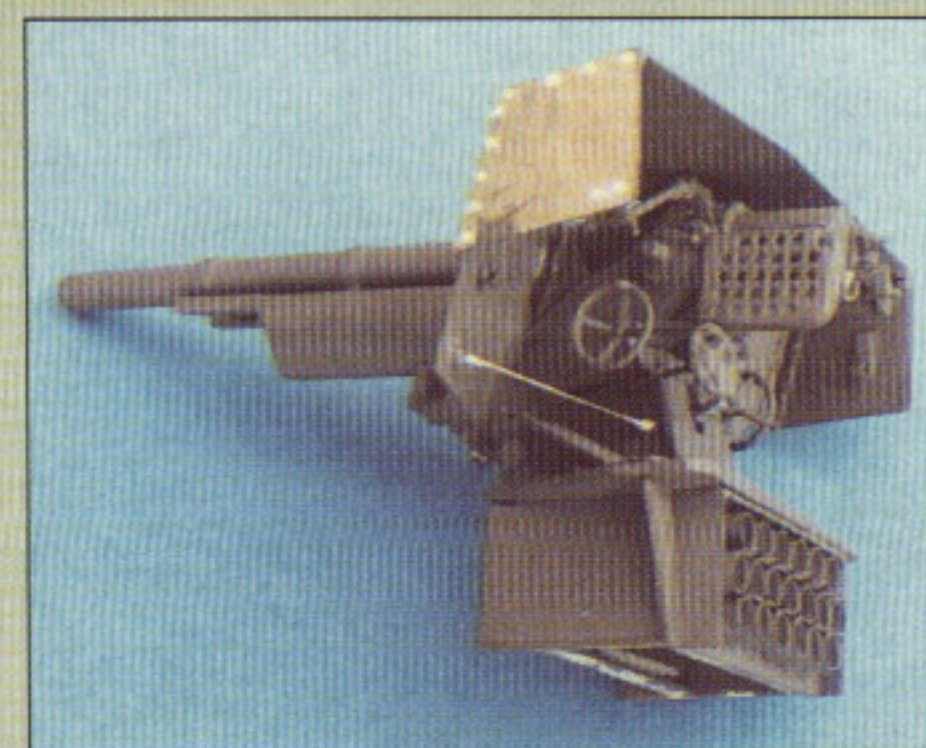
plastic rod which Kendall supply is too thick and you'll need it for the gun crutch anyway.

Fix the shafts and hand-wheels, with etched part 12 under the shaft for the large hand-wheel. Although not shown in Kendall's instructions, this is a brace for the shaft. Kendall provide the standard, indirect gunsight in resin, but I didn't fit it as apparently only modified M3 GMCs carried it. The plastic rod provided does nicely for the sight mount on the port side. Add etched part 13 to the port side of the triangle structure on top of the barrel, then a 9mm length of rod pointing down at 45 degrees with the unnumbered resin part on its end. This is the direct sight mount - see my photos for the way it should look when built. Unfortunately I couldn't find a photograph showing the indirect telescope sight so didn't try to model it; add a plain length of plastic rod if you want to represent it.

Kendall's plastic rod is also fine for the gun crutch which fit on the wall in front of the gun mount - Kendall shows its shape, but for some reason doesn't give dimensions. I used two legs 17mm long, cemented together at the top and 10mm apart at base to fit the mounts on the body wall, then cut a cross-



The unpainted shield shows its front braces and all those bolt-heads.



The shield rear braces run like this on both sides.

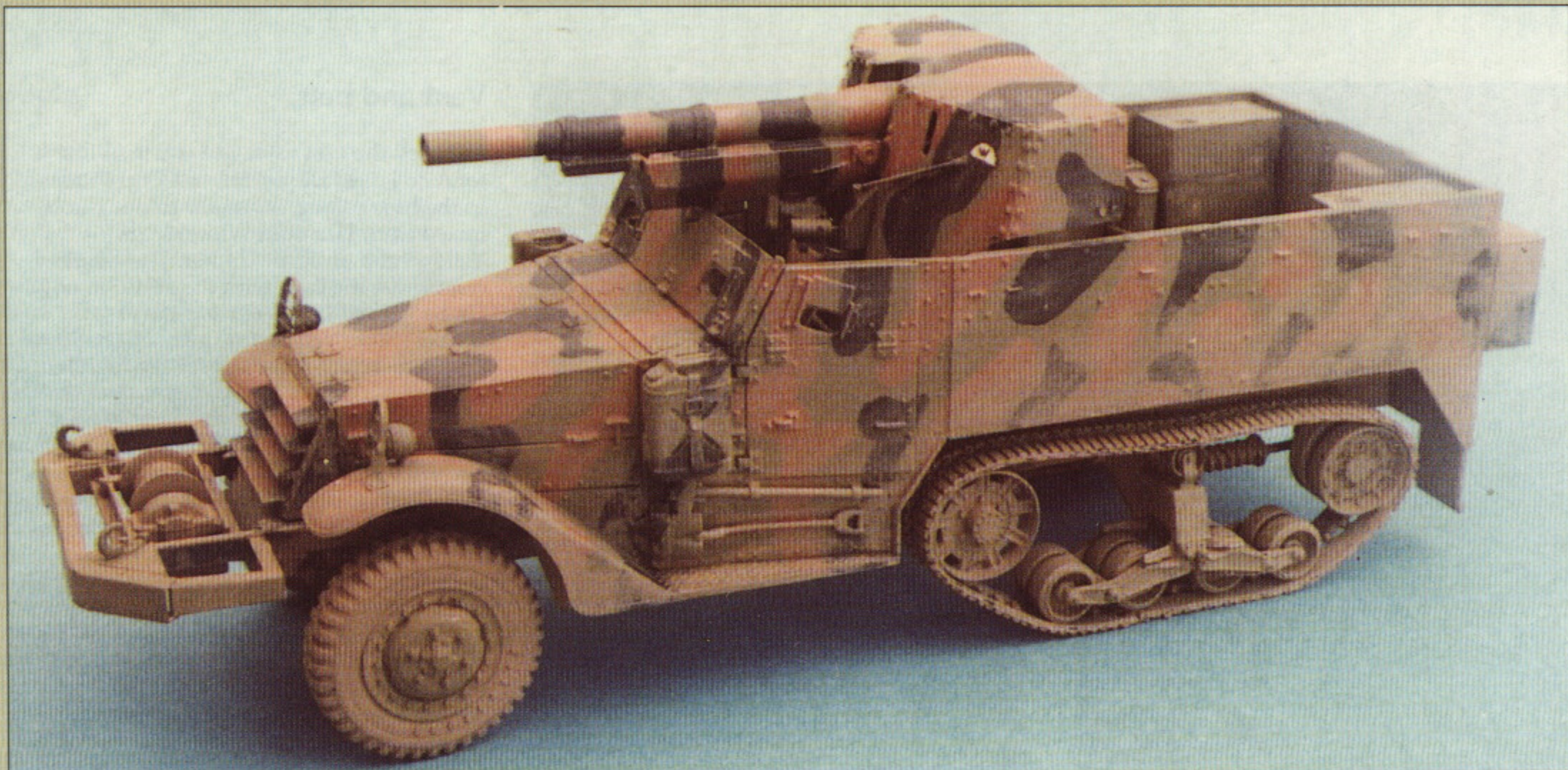
piece to fit a quarter of the way up from the base. The resin C-shape goes at the top, then it can be painted and fixed to its mounts.

The gun shield

This is Kendall's master stroke. It comes in three main photo etched brass parts to be bent and fixed together. The sides have recesses onto which the roof fits, and all you have to do is adjust the roof's centre bend until the sides of the central gun opening are parallel. Very simple, and surprisingly strong. It's even stronger when you've fixed the internal angle pieces in place - check, though, that you fix etched parts 4 and 8 on the correct sides as their bottoms are angled to fit the slope of the shield.

Kendall do not provide bolt heads on the outside of the shield - as they rightly say, etching has its limits! Add these, in the locations etched on the brass, from slices of plastic rod or whatever method you prefer. Photographs show that there should also be bolt heads along the edge of the roof, paired with the ones on the sides. Kendall do not mention these, but I hope you can see from my photo how they fit. As an aside, Kendall refers to bolt heads on the shield, so I use that term here, but photos seem to show rivets! So don't worry too much about the facets which would show on bolt heads.

Once the shield's in place the gun is finished, but the problem is that Kendall has not given any apparent method of fixing the shield to the gun! What's missing is a shield mount on each side of the carriage. Make these from .5mm plastic card by cutting two rectangles 8mm x 3mm. Mark 3mm down one long edge of each, and cut from here to the opposite corners to make triangles. Add a strip of plastic card to the longest sides, which will be the fronts of the mounts, and fix the two pieces to the carriage a little



The distinctive camouflage pattern and the battalion markings on the gunshield.



Here are those nice light guards! I chose to model the rare winch-equipped M3 GMC.

behind the 'bosses' on the sides of the gun slide. Super-glue the shield to these and add two bolt heads as seen in my photos. Cut lengths of brass rod to make the shield braces as shown by Kendall - there should be two each side of the gun, one inside and one outside the shield.

Finishing off

Paint the completed gun assembly and fix it to the floor - the boss at its front should engage with the semi-circle mount on the body's front wall. Now all that's left is the tool stowage provided by Tamiya (don't forget to add the missing central handles to the jerrycans, so they match those inside the body), Kendall's rear stowage boxes, and the headlamps. Kendall provide a pair of super, etched brass headlamp guards, in four pieces each. Bend the strips (17) round a paintbrush handle to make semi-circles and fix the grilles (16) inside them - not on the front edge, but half the way back. Bend the bases of the stays (18) to about 45 degrees and fix one to each side of both guards, then fix them as shown in my photos, slanting back.

The only real disappointment of this conversion is that Kendall don't supply

the actual headlamps, so you'll have to either fit the inaccurate Tamiya ones, as I did, or model your GMC with its headlamps removed - quite legitimate, they were often removed before going into action because the gun blast shattered their glass. The real M3 GMC had headlamps of the pattern shown on the box top photograph, so if you have anything like these in your spares box, fit them.

I painted my GMC in the US Marine three-colour scheme of faded olive drab, earth red and black shown for a winch-equipped vehicle in one of the plates in Steve Zaloga's *US Tank Destroyers in Combat* (Concord Armor at War series, 1996, ISBN 962-361609-0). Humbrol 155 Matt Olive Drab and 186 Brown provide the faded Olive and Earth Red, with of course 33 for the black, and the black-on-white unit markings on the gunshield have to be painted by hand.

The Zaloga book includes some very useful photos and plates of M3 GMCs, and another good reference is *M3 Half-Track In Action* by Jim Mesko (Squadron/Signal Publications, 1996, ISBN 0-89747-363-9). This includes a clear photograph of the gun and mount which is very useful.

Final verdict

Kendall does deserve criticism for the missing headlamps, because you are entitled to assume that what's shown on the box top is what's in the kit, but otherwise this is a super kit which I recommend to anyone who feels capable of tackling the cutting needed on the Tamiya half-track floor.

Availability

Tamiya M21 kits are not very easy to find in the UK and if you can't find one it is still possible to use the conversion on another Tamiya M3 variant, but be prepared to do more conversion work on the floor and sides.

The Kendall conversion kit is available from Hannants, Harbour Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 2LZ or Accurate Armour, Units 15-16 Kingston Industrial Estate, Port Glasgow, Inverclyde, Scotland PA14 5DG. Price around £32. ■





I enjoy painting figures from the Napoleonic period, however, I get a little bored painting the same uniforms over again. Faced with the prospects of painting 'another' French dragoon, I decided to research alternatives to the standard green uniform with coloured facings.

French Dragoon Trumpeter

Phil Kessling rings the changes on a 54mm Historex Nemrod figure

As I thumbed through my collection of Rousselot plates, I found exactly what I was looking for in an illustration of a trumpeter of the 23rd Regiment. I thought the yellow tunic with green facings trimmed in white, and the white bearskin with red cords would be an enjoyable painting exercise. It was certainly not an ordinary looking uniform.

I selected a Nemrod 54mm dragoon kit for this project. It was superbly cast in grey polyurethane resin and contained a white plastic Historex sword sprue. I decided to replace the kit head with one of the excellent types sculpted by Julian Hullis and available from NCO Historex in a package of six.

The only modification to the kit was made to the bearskin. I was not satisfied with the shape or texture of the fur, so I covered it with a layer of Kneadatite (Duro) putty and textured it with a craft knife. This, in turn, required me to also re-sculpt some of the cords and flounders.

The figure was primed with Floquil white, undercoated with acrylics and painted entirely in oils.

Face

The eyeballs were painted in acrylics, using a mix of white and a little blue-grey. I used an acrylic black for the pupils. The eyelids were painted in oils: Mars Brown for the lower and Sepia (Rembrandt) for the upper.

My basic flesh mixture was Mars Red+Cadmium Yellow+Titanium White. The shadow colour was Mars Red+Mars Brown; deep shadows were painted with Brown Madder+Purple Madder+dab of Sepia. Jaune+Titanium White were added to the base flesh and used for the highlights. The light highlights were painted with a mix of the highlight colour with the addition of more Titanium White. After drying, the deep shadows and light highlights were re-painted.

Pants

A large number of French Dragoons served in Spain. So, I thought it would be a nice touch to depict the figure in brown pants made from locally acquired Spanish cloth. This colour choice also contrasted nicely with the yellow tunic. The base brown colour was mixed from Mars Brown+Mars Violet+dab of Chromium Oxide Green. Shadows were the base+Burnt Umber; deep shadows were painted with Sepia. I used Mars Red+Mars Yellow+Titanium White for the highlights. The light highlights were a blend of Mars Yellow+Titanium White.

Vest and belt

I wanted the vest to have a warm, white tone, so I used Daniel Smith's Buff Titanium as the base colour. A similar colour can be mixed from Titanium White+Mars Yellow+dab of Burnt Umber. The shadow colour was the base with the addition of Raw Umber+Mars Yellow. I used Burnt Umber+Mars Yellow for the deep shadows. Titanium White was used for the highlights.

Sword belt

The sword belt was painted a cold white in order to contrast with the warm white of the vest. I used my favourite cold white mix of Titanium White+Raw Umber as a base colour. The shadow colour was obtained by mixing in more Raw Umber; the deep shadows were pure Raw Umber. I used Titanium White for the highlights. After this initial painting had dried, I re-applied the light highlights on both the vest and belt with Titanium White.

Yellow coat

The yellow coat was painted with a base colour mixed from Mars Yellow and Cadmium Yellow Deep. The Mars Yellow tones down the Cadmium Yellow and keeps the coat from looking overly bright. I used Mars Yellow+Mars Brown as the shadow colour; deep shadows were Mars Brown. Cadmium Yellow+Titanium White was the highlight colour, more Titanium White was added to obtain the light highlight colour.

Green facings

I rarely use pre-mixed green oil colours, as most of the available colours are transparent. Instead, I prefer to mix my own from blues and yellows. The base colour for the green facings was mixed from Indigo+Cadmium Yellow+dab of Mars Yellow. Indigo was used to paint the shadows, to which I added a little Lamp Black for the deep shadows. Jaune+Mars Yellow was the mix used for the highlights; I added a little Titanium White for the light highlights.

Epaulettes

I wanted the epaulettes to have a slightly different tint from the sword belt. To achieve this, I mixed a base colour from Sepia+Titanium White. The shadow colour was the base with the addition of more Sepia. This was blended and allowed to dry. After drying, I randomly applied some deeper separation lines with Sepia. I also added some random highlights with pure Titanium White. I believe that by not blending these steps, the epaulettes appear more natural and have the illusion of greater depth.

Overcoat

For the same reason, I mentioned earlier concerning greens, I prefer to mix my own greys. The base colour of the rolled overcoat was Titanium White+Raw Umber+Lamp Black+Sepia. Raw Umber+Lamp Black was used to paint the shadows and Lamp Black for the deep shadows. The highlights were a mix of Mars Yellow+Titanium White and the light highlights were Titanium White.

Boots

I wanted the boots to have a worn and dusty appearance, so I used two different colour mixtures: one for the upper portions and another for the lower portions. The upper portions were painted Blue Black, shaded with Lamp Black. The highlights were Blue Black+Titanium White; a light highlight colour was obtained by adding more Titanium White. Raw Umber+Mars Yellow+Titanium White was used on the toes and heels of the boots. The shadows were painted with Lamp Black. I added more Titanium White to the base colour for the highlights and additional Titanium White was added for the light highlights.

White bearskin

All of the red cords on the bearskin were painted in acrylics. A base colour was mixed from red and violet. I shaded this with purple thinned with water, no blending! A pure red was used to paint the highlights. For the light highlights, I added orange to the red. The acrylics that I used are made by Cel-Vinyl and Jo Sonya and are similar to the Andrea/Vallejo colours in painting characteristics.

Painting white fur was quite a challenge. I mixed a base colour from Titanium White+Raw Umber+dab of Mars Yellow+dab of Mars Red. For the shadows, I added Raw Umber+Mars Yellow+dab of Burnt Umber to the base colour. The deep shadows were Raw Umber+Burnt Umber. I added more Titanium White to the base colour and used the resulting mixture for the highlights. The bearskin was then allowed to dry. Final highlights were painted in Titanium White, using short brush strokes without blending.

Hair

I never seem to be pleased with the way I paint hair, so I tried a new technique on this figure. The hair was base painted in Raw Umber which was then allowed to dry. After drying, I painted the highlights with Raw Umber+Mars Brown+Mars Yellow; Titanium White was added to this mix and used for the light highlights. A little Lamp Black was mixed with Raw Umber and used as a shadow colour. This was then allowed to dry. The final step was to paint some individual 'hairs' with the highlight colour; I also added a few random lines with the shadow colour. These lines were not blended. I thought the final result was more natural looking than some of my earlier attempts.

Finishing touches

Since the figure's uniform was so colourful, I painted the groundwork in subdued earth tones. I felt the finished figure was a striking alternative to the more mundane dragoon troopers uniform. It was also an easy 'painting conversion' which required very little sculpting skills.

Availability

Nemrod figures available from Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover Kent CT17 9BZ. List available on receipt of a sae. ■





Superb Scimitar

John Boyton builds Accurate Armour's 1:15 scale kit of the British Scimitar CVR(T)

During my visit to the 'Trucks and Tracks' exhibition last February, one of the models that really caught my eye was on the Accurate Armour stand. It was a 1:15 scale model of the early pattern CVR(T) Scimitar.

When I say it really caught my eye, that is an understatement! It had such a presence that you could not be anything, but mesmerised by it. I have built quite a few 1:15 scale models and this new one certainly got my juices flowing. Six months later the review sample arrived and I got the chance to build it.

A complete kit

The kit arrived with a lot of bubble wrap plastic to prevent damage during transit and, on opening, I found a wealth of light green resin pieces, two photo-etched brass frets of detail parts and all the other pieces needed to complete the kit. During my 'talks' with the crew on the Accurate Armour stand at 'Trucks and Tracks' they had said it was the aim of the kit to be complete. Everything that would be needed was in the box. There wouldn't be any need to find decals or to look for crew figures because these were in the box.

Detailed instructions

The instruction booklet begins with general instructions, then photographs are used for the assembly followed by the contents on the two etched brass detail sets. Next comes stowage, extra parts and crew, painting and decals, then finishing with the assembly instructions. I mention this because it is so easy to give the booklet a brief glance and then get stuck in. Don't! Take some time to read carefully through the booklet as there are lots of useful tips and advice which are helpful during the construction stage.

If you can resist starting to build the kit as soon as you open the box, which is very difficult I must add, check out the rear sheet of the instruction booklet because the parts list is there and you really should check the parts off against it.

Let construction begin ...

The upper hull is cast as one piece and what a piece it is, the detail on it has to be seen to be believed. How they managed to get it out of the mould in one piece is amazing. The lower hull is also cast in one piece and not only are all the locating points for the suspension self-defined, but the belly plate is well detailed too.

All of the kit parts are on overspill plugs from the casting process and the number for

each piece is cast onto the plug which certainly makes finding each part a cinch.

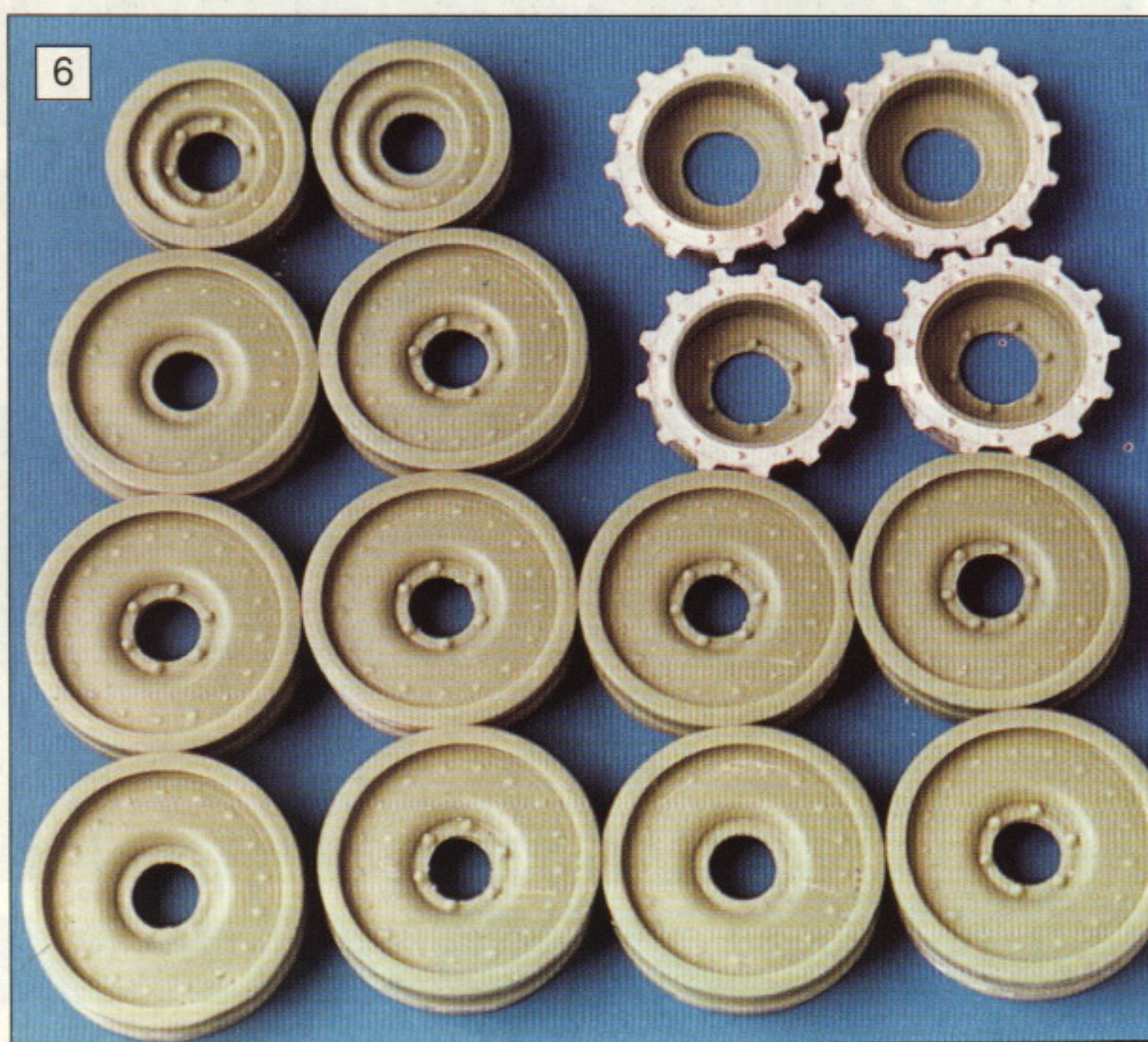
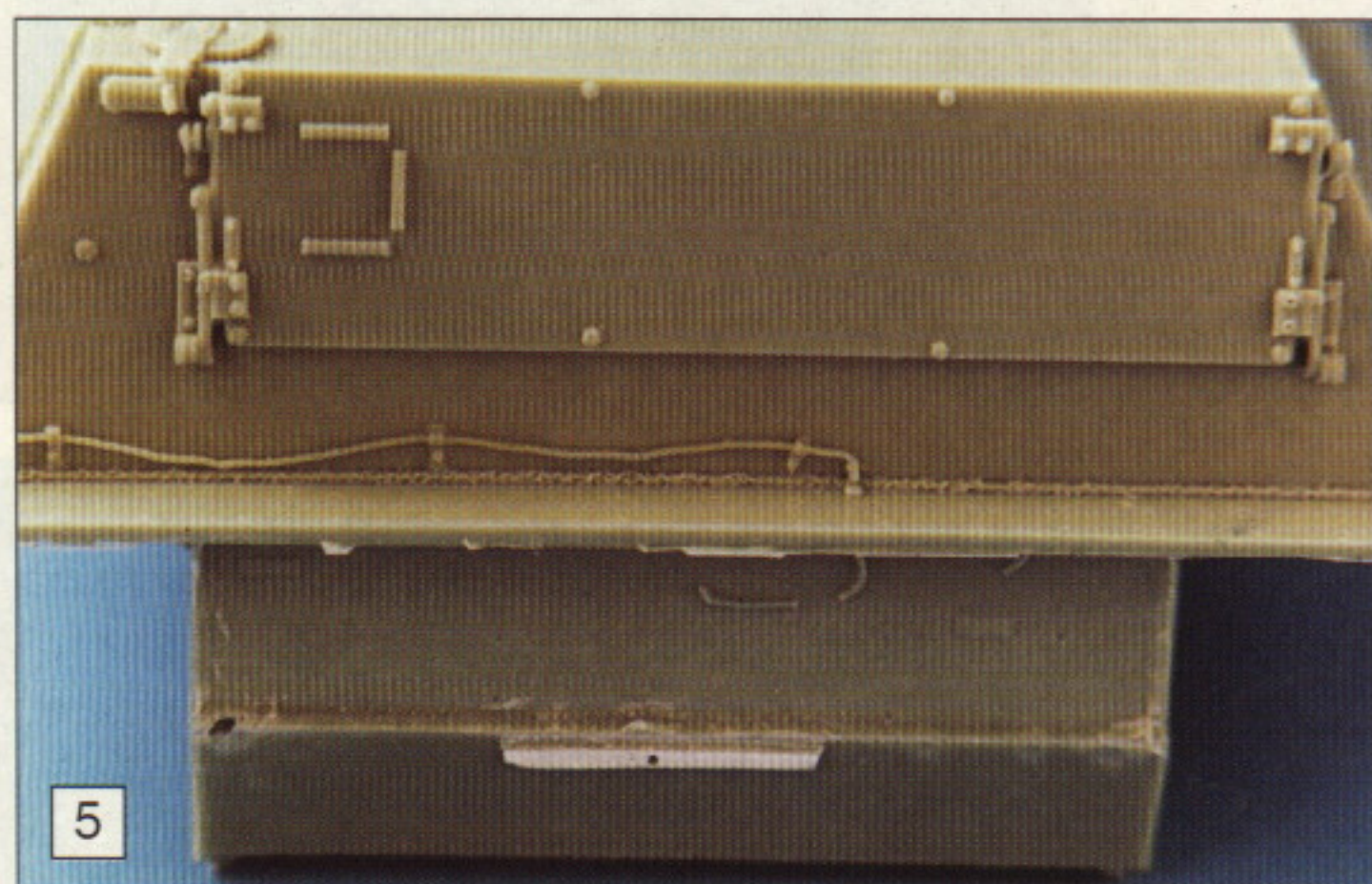
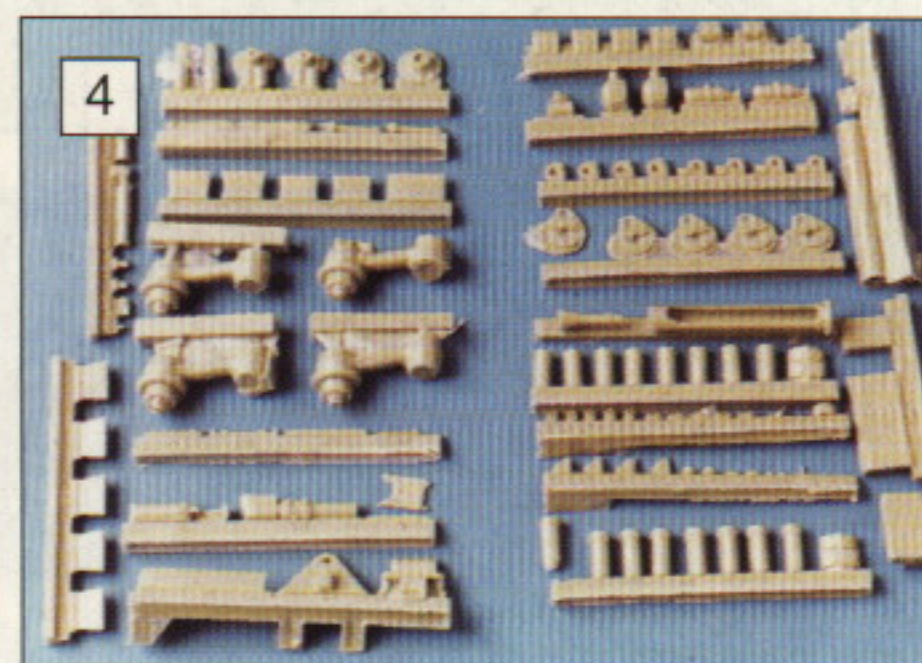
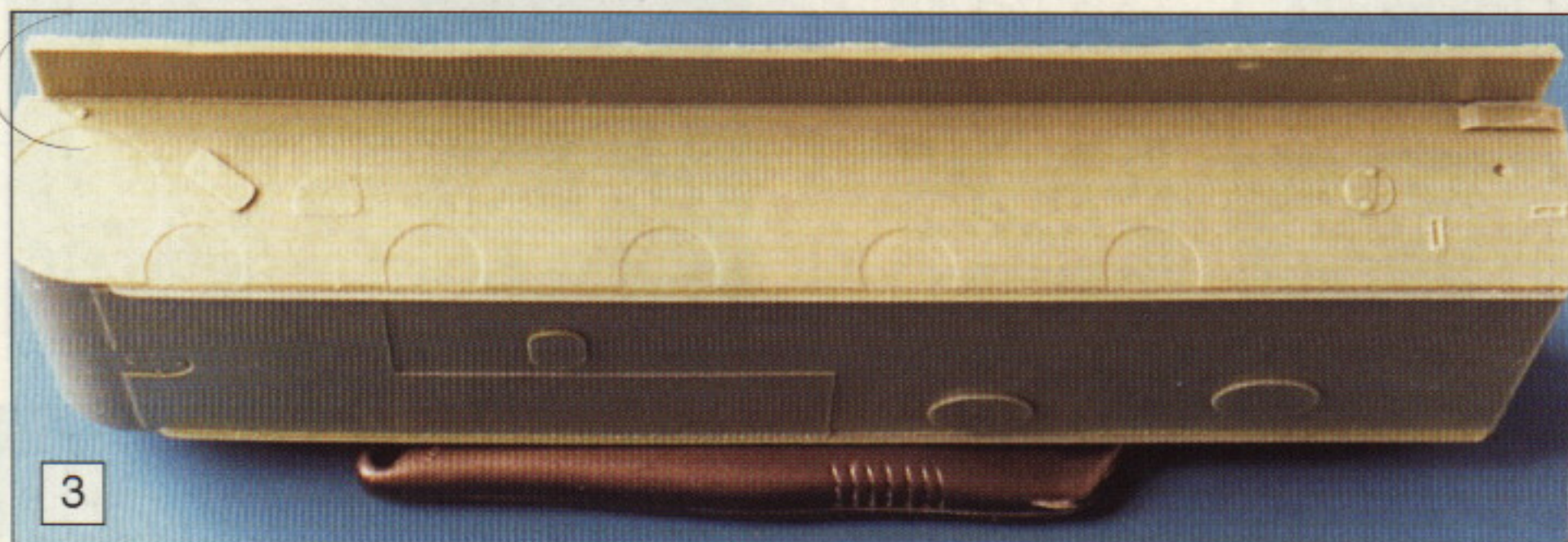
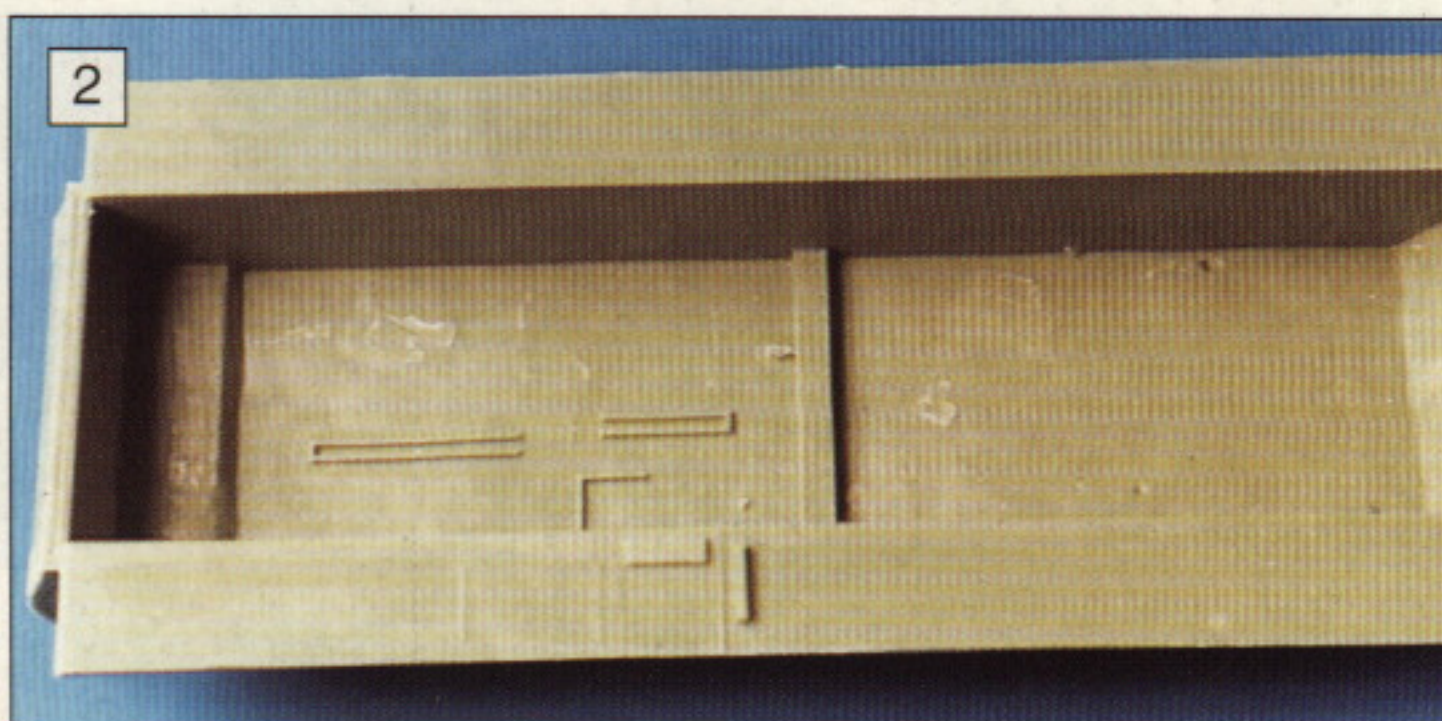
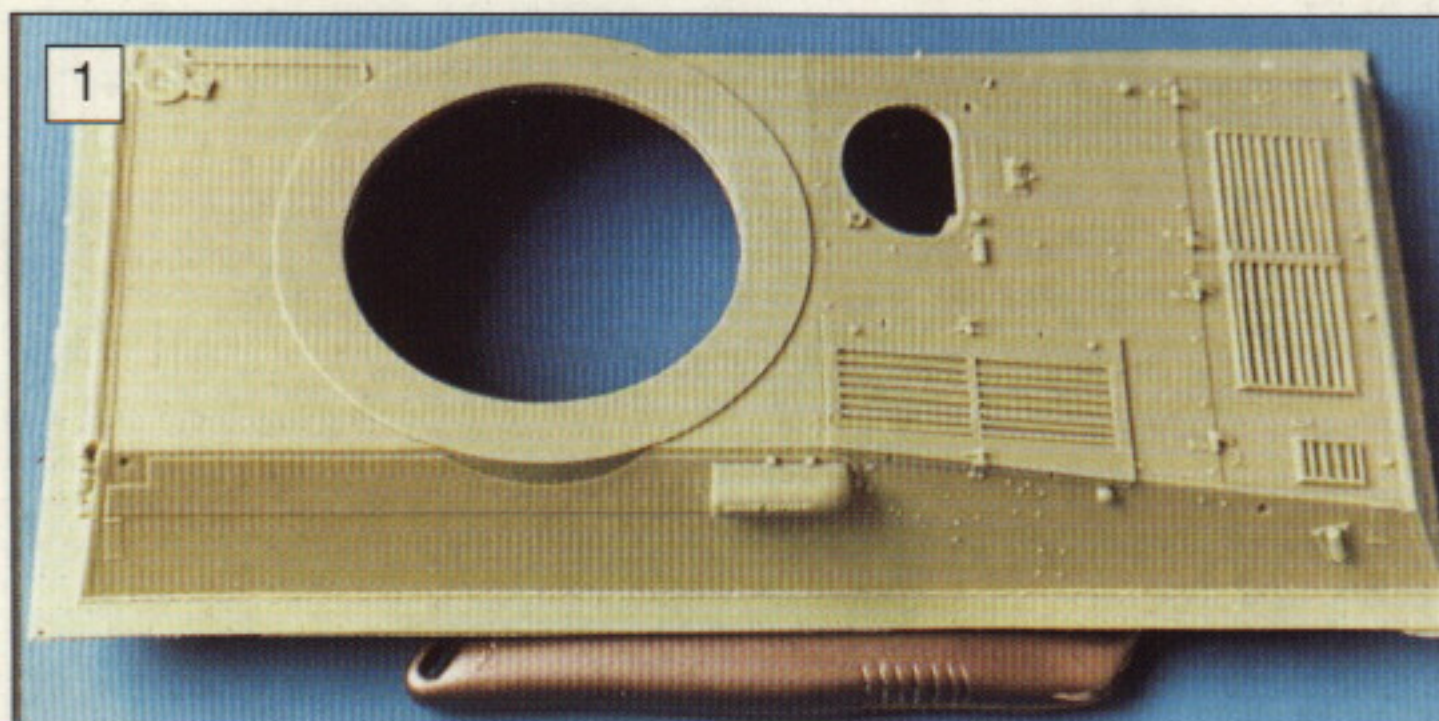
The rear of the upper hull has some very fine detail cast on, so care must be taken when handling it. The lower part also had the only air bubble that I found on the whole of the model.

The suspension was the first parts glued on and the instructions state that a ride height of 17.5mm with no tracks on should be set. The plates that the arms fit into are moulded so that when in place the ride height is nearly perfect anyway. However, just to make sure, I placed the hull onto some Plasticine and glued the front and rear arms on first. With these level the rest of the arms were glued on, but they are so well cast that virtually no adjustments had to be made. The two front arms are different to the rest as they have swing arms on them, but you can not get them mixed up as they are clearly quite different.

Hiccup!

A hiccup I found was that there should be two shock absorber cover plates on the etched fret, No. E19, but there is only one! I phoned Accurate Armour who told me although they realised the error it would be very awkward to change it and asked would it be possible to make a new one out of card. It took me less than 10 minutes to make one as all the sizes could be taken from the one in the kit.

The rest of the suspension went on without any problems, except the rear swing arm mounts No. 10 have been left out of the instructions. That is why you should first read the booklet thoroughly as it gets easier to spot the errors with the parts list fresh in the mind. I was also a bit perplexed about part 16, the shock absorbers. I was not sure



1. The one-piece polyurethane casting for the upper hull reveals a lot of fine details. The handle of a trimming knife under the track guard supports the part for the camera. 2. The lower hull is also a one piece casting. 3. The suspension arm locating points along the lower hull side. 4. Kit parts on their sprue pouring blocks have cast on numbers for easy identification and quicker location. 5. The rear of both hull castings joined together. Note the only air bubble found at lower left which was easily filled with Milliput. 6. Road wheels, sprockets and idlers.

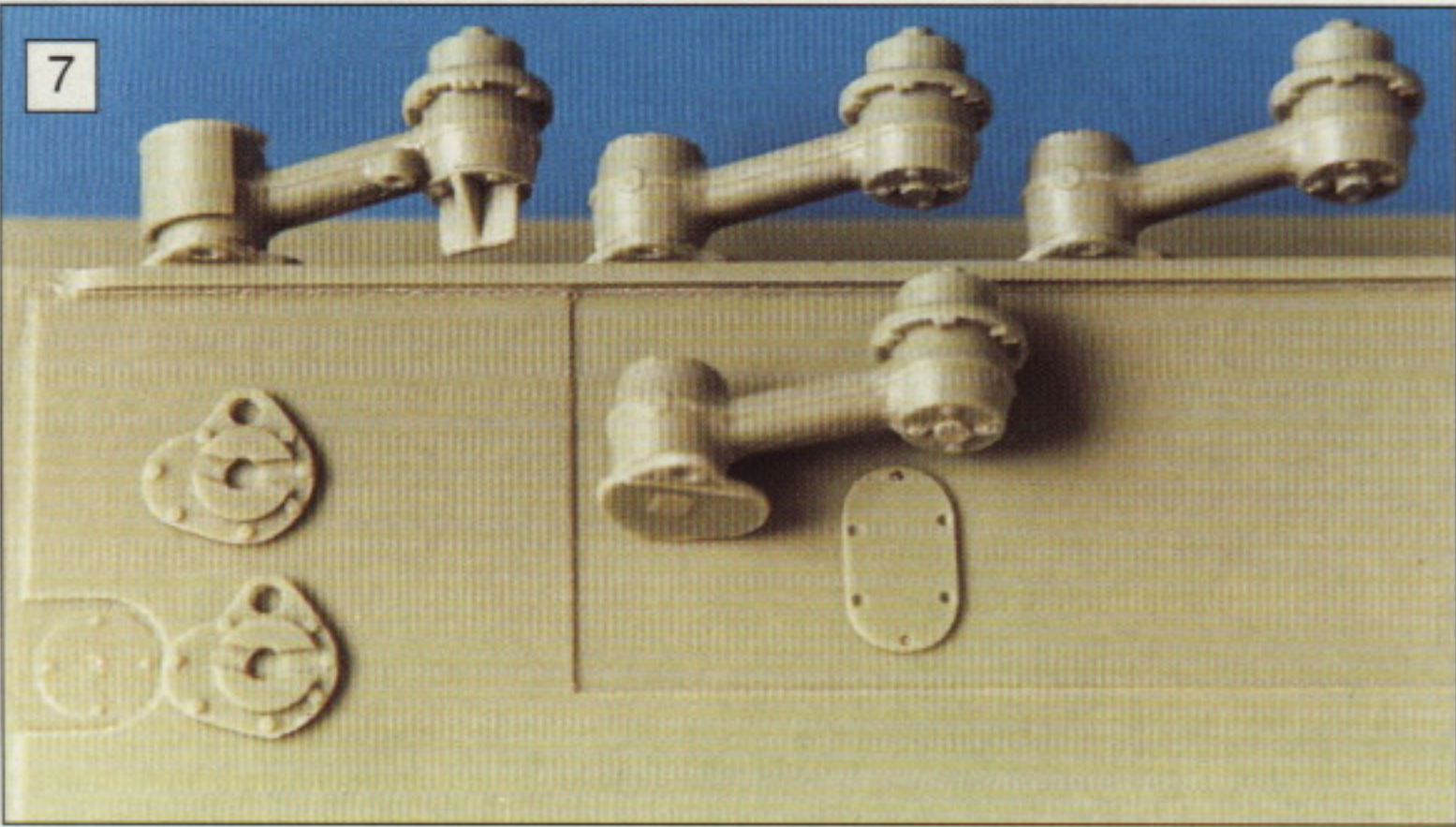
which was which! All I had to do was to look on the back of each casting where the identity is inscribed.

The idler arm travel stops No. 35 were glued on and their positions were easy to find as the welding web that surrounds them is cast onto the hull. Looking at the booklet I was not sure at first which way they went on, but after a look through some of the references I have it would seem the longer edges face inwards.

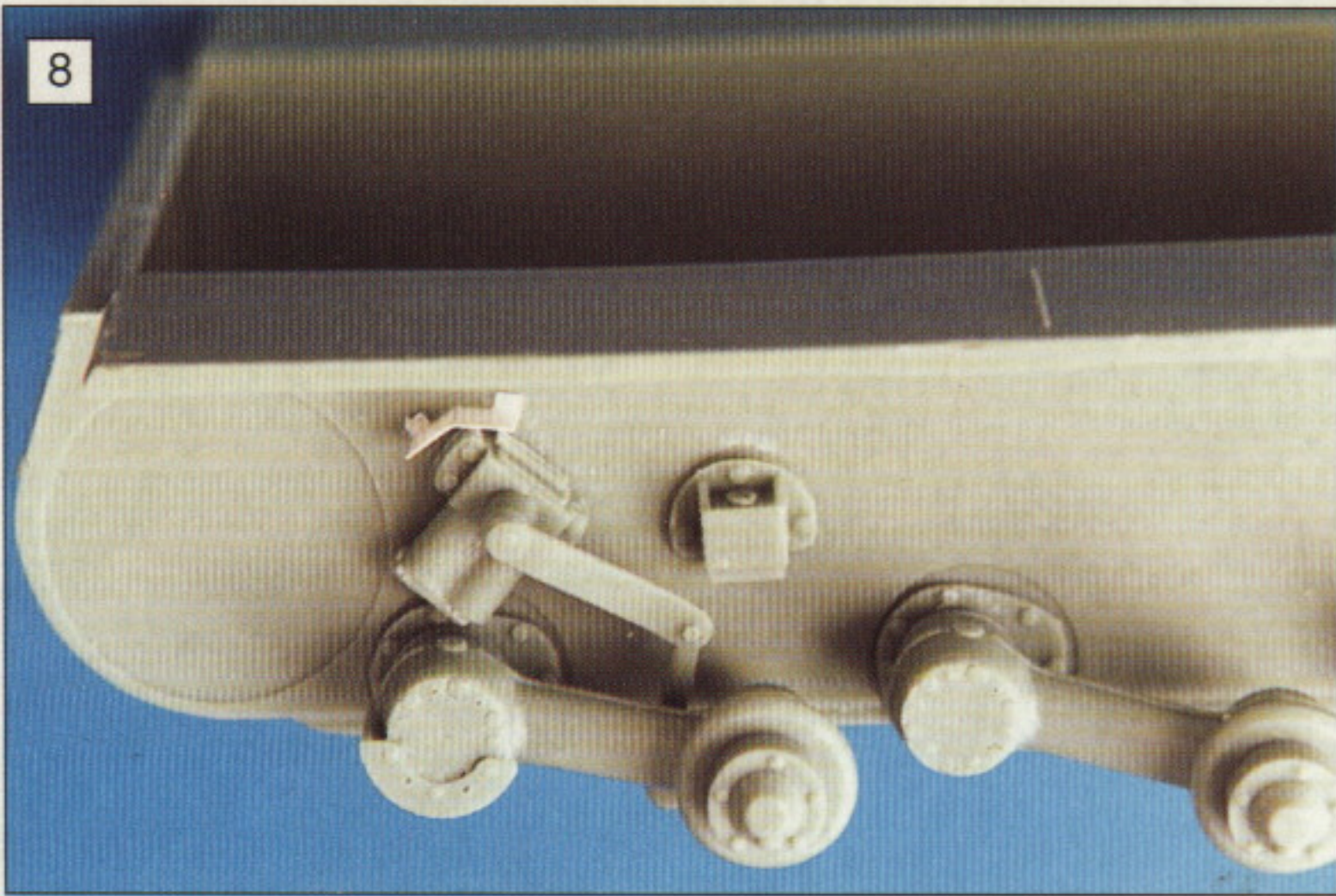
As the lower hull sat squarely on the swing arms I left off the wheels and started on the instrument panel. the positions of the various items were easy to put into place especially as I had a copy of *Military Modelling* Vol. 26 No. 10 for October 1996. In this issue the article 'Scimitar in Close Up' by John Prigent helped enormously, giving lots of photo information, in colour, and it was through this feature that I noticed Part 109 is shown incorrectly in the booklet.

The radio box, Part 109, should be vertical not horizontal, but other than this minor grizzle the rest of the mouldings are truly accurate and beautifully moulded.





7. The suspension arms and mounting plates.



8. An extra shock absorber cover plate has to be made from plastic card. Use the etched part as a guide.

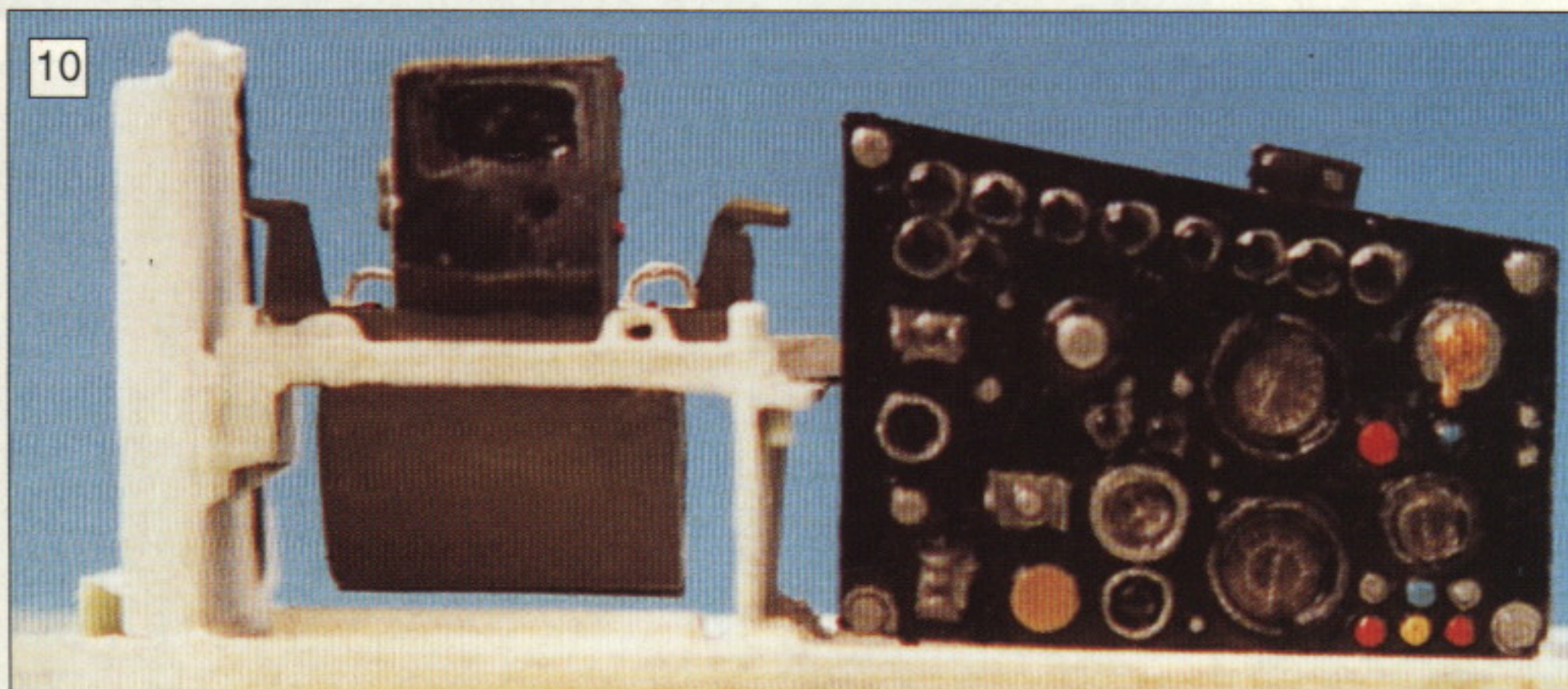
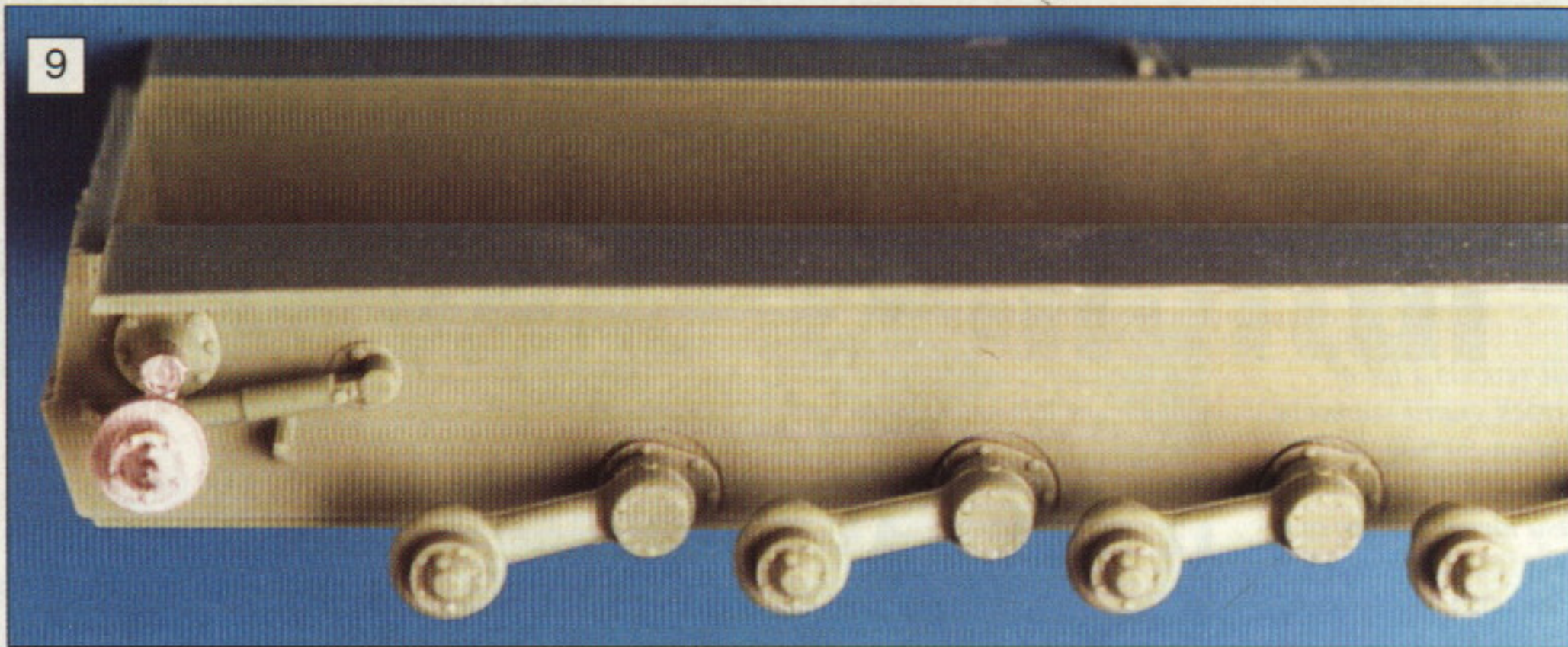
9. Part No. 10 the rear swing arm idler mount.

10. Instrument panel with printed dials and driver's night sight in position.

11. Driver's light and air vent in place.

12. The right side of the driver's compartment with No.109 in the vertical position.

13. Etched brass parts with part No.16 marked left and right by the author to avoid incorrect location.

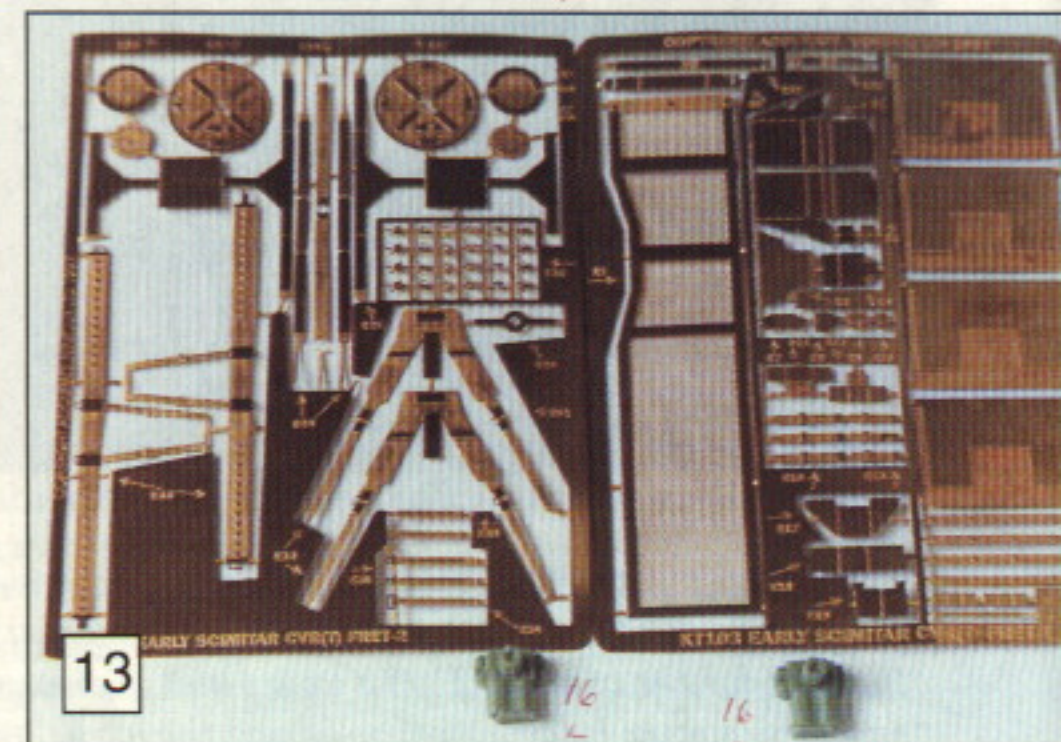
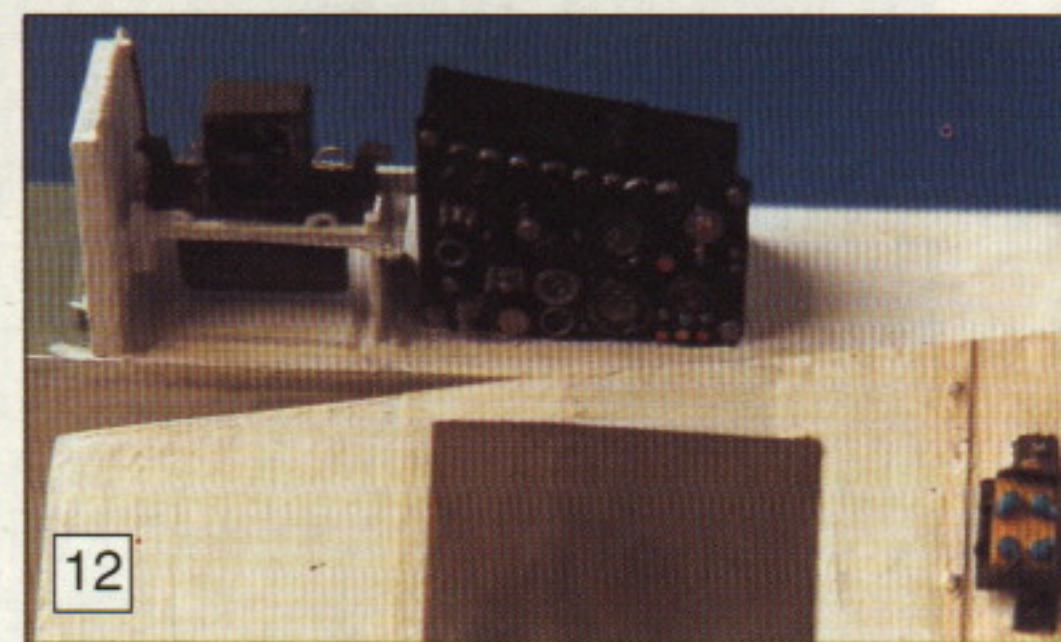
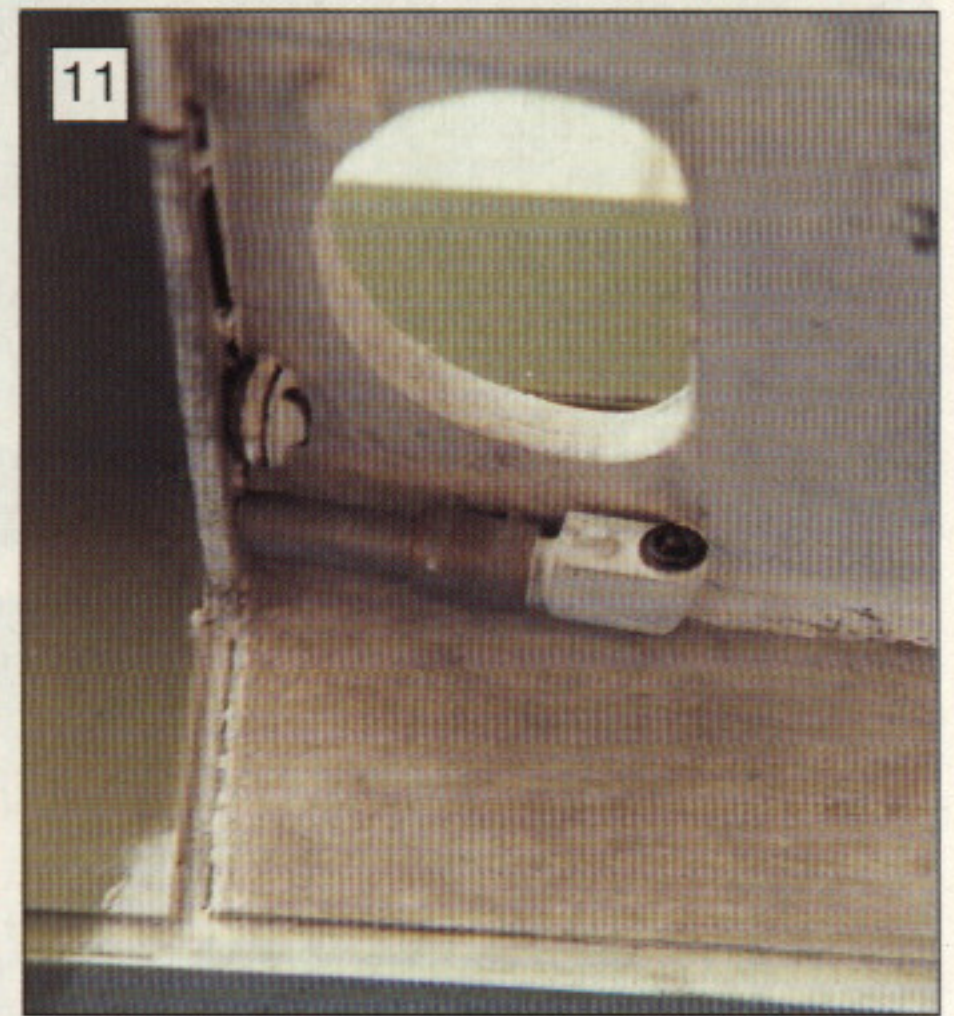


With the driver's position in place all the parts were painted, the colours for each part are explained in the booklet and by using the *Military Modelling* article it became plain sailing. There were no decals for the instrument dials, so I used some cut out of an old magazine. At this stage I did not know if I would have the driver in place or not, so I

test-fitted the top plate to the lower hull to see if it was possible to put the driver in afterwards ...it was, but it is a tight squeeze.

Wheels and tracks

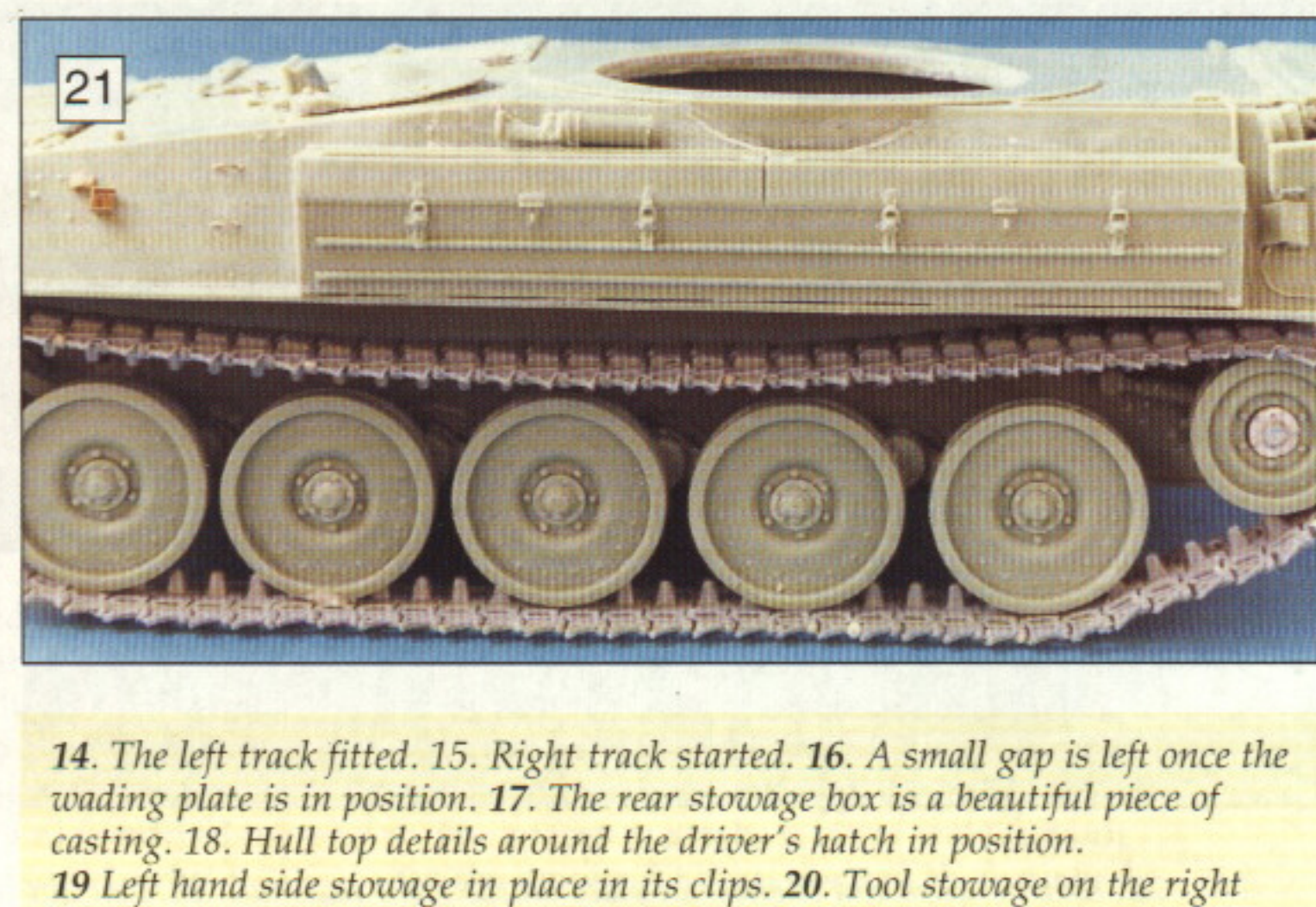
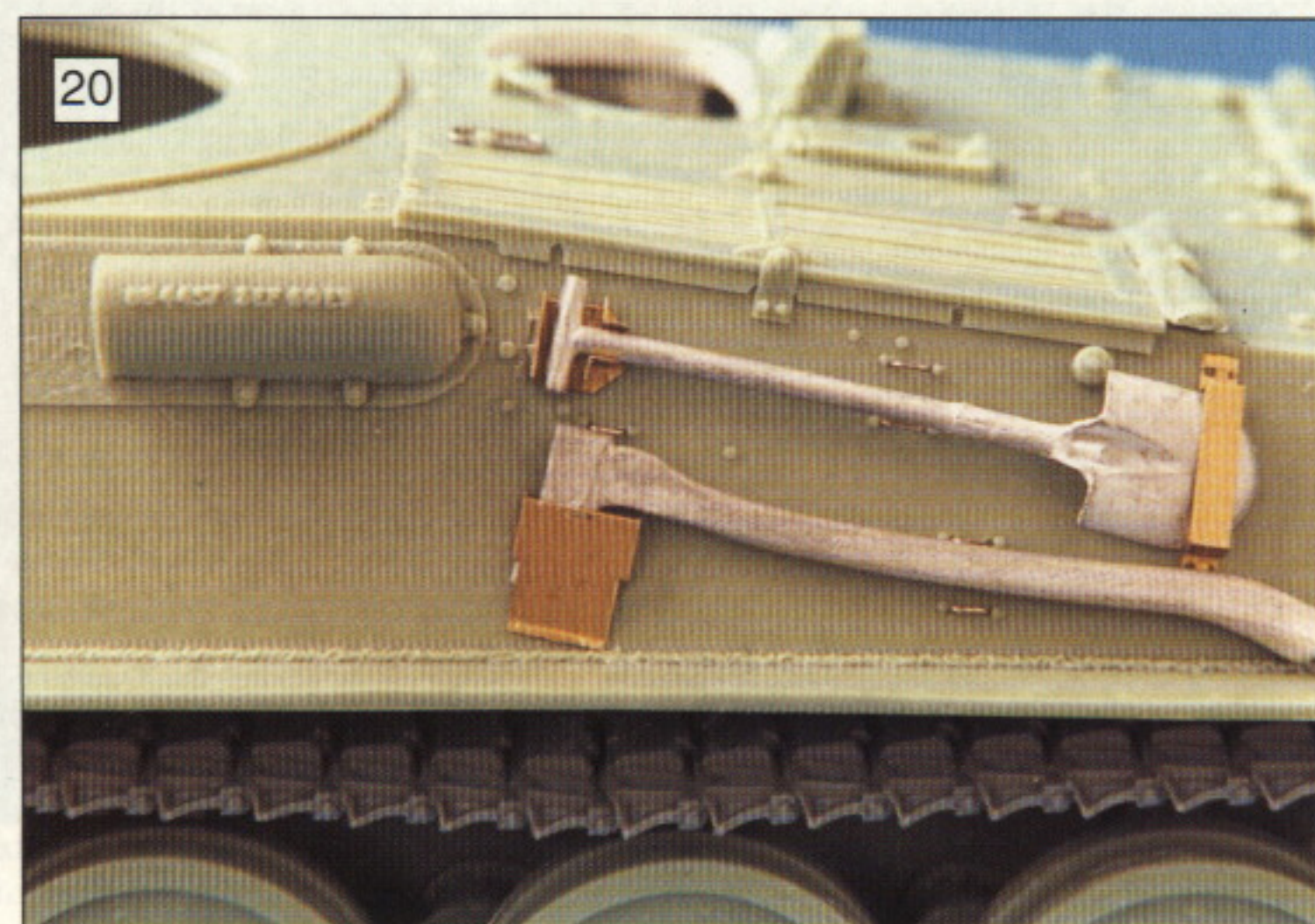
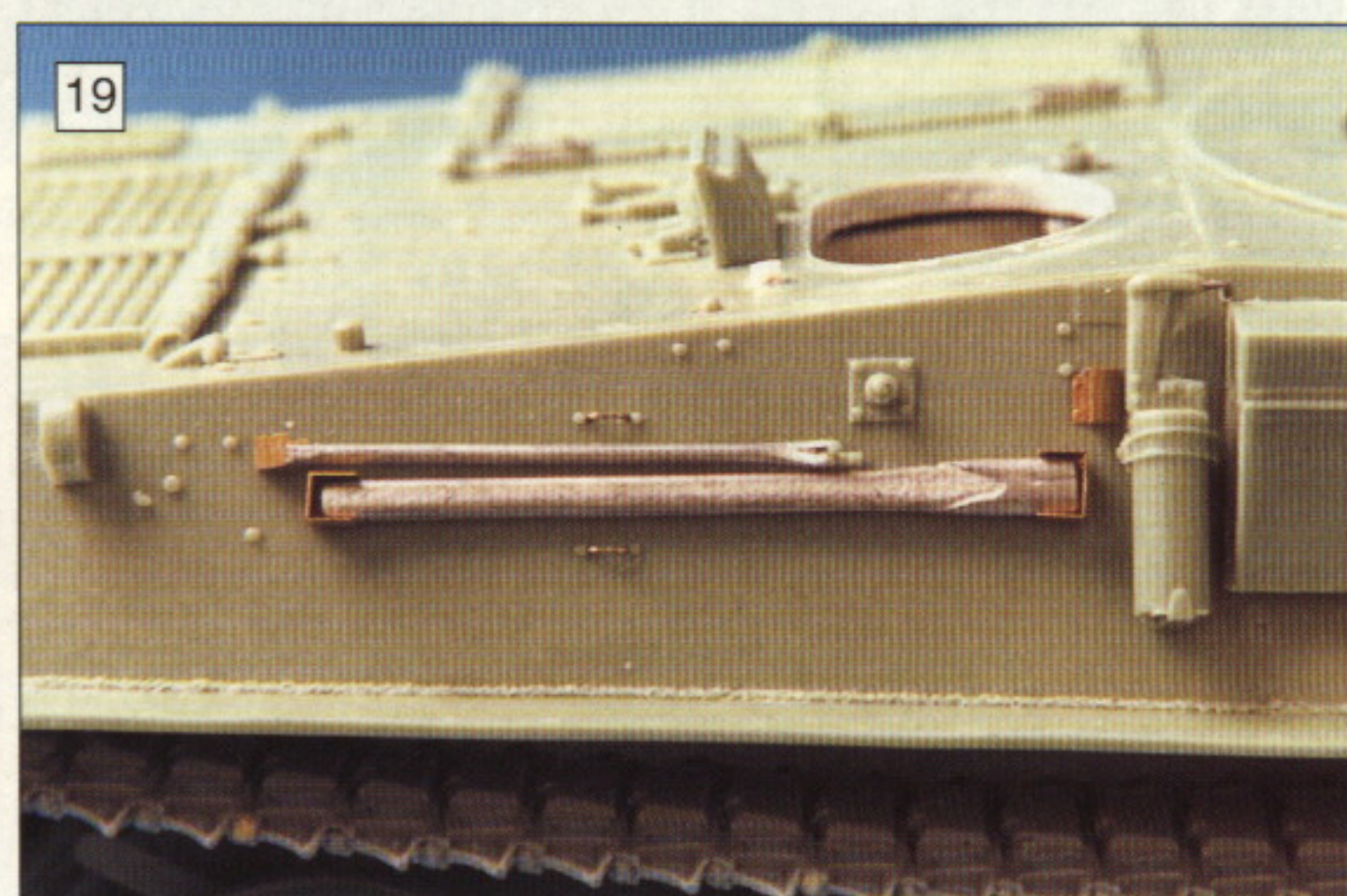
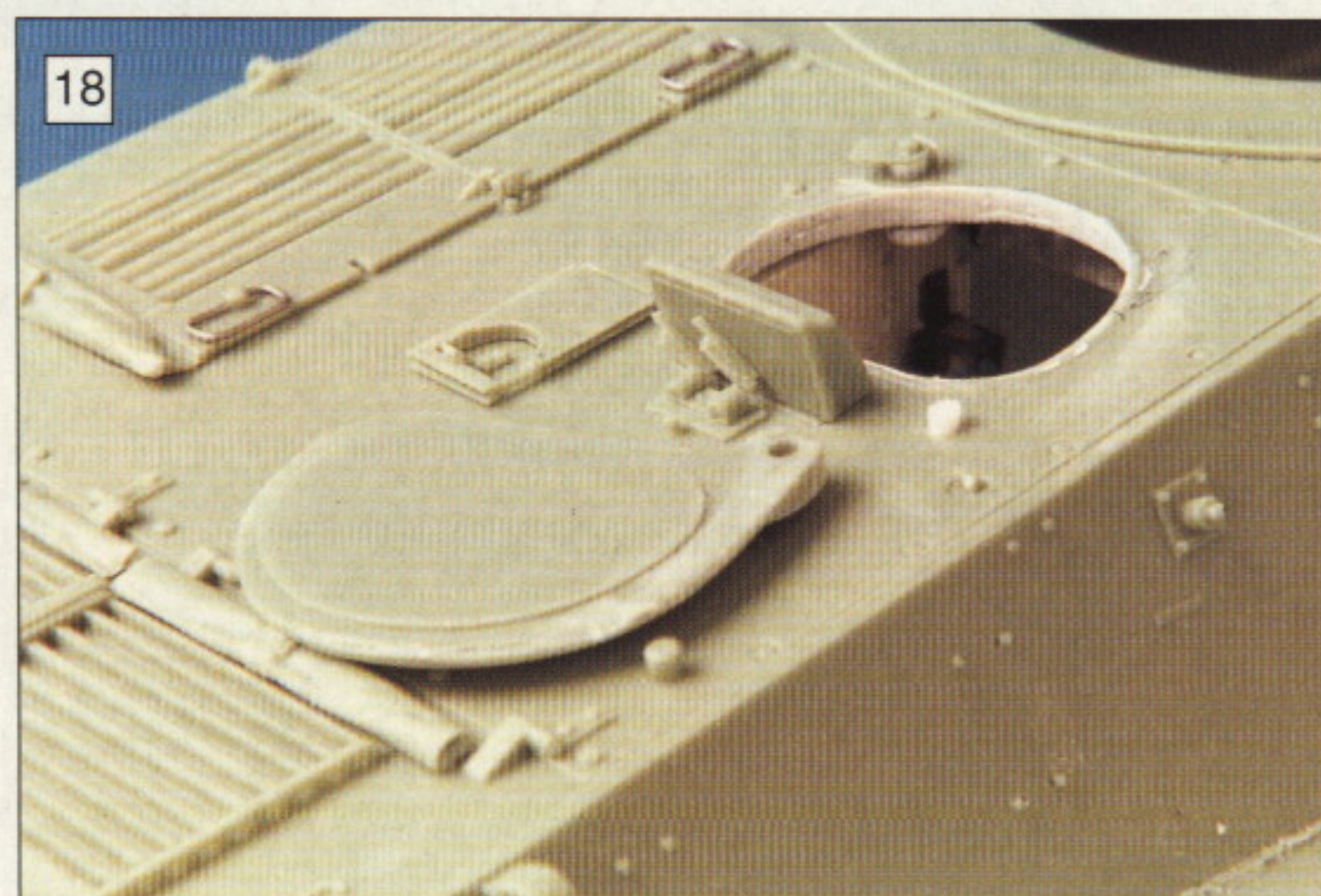
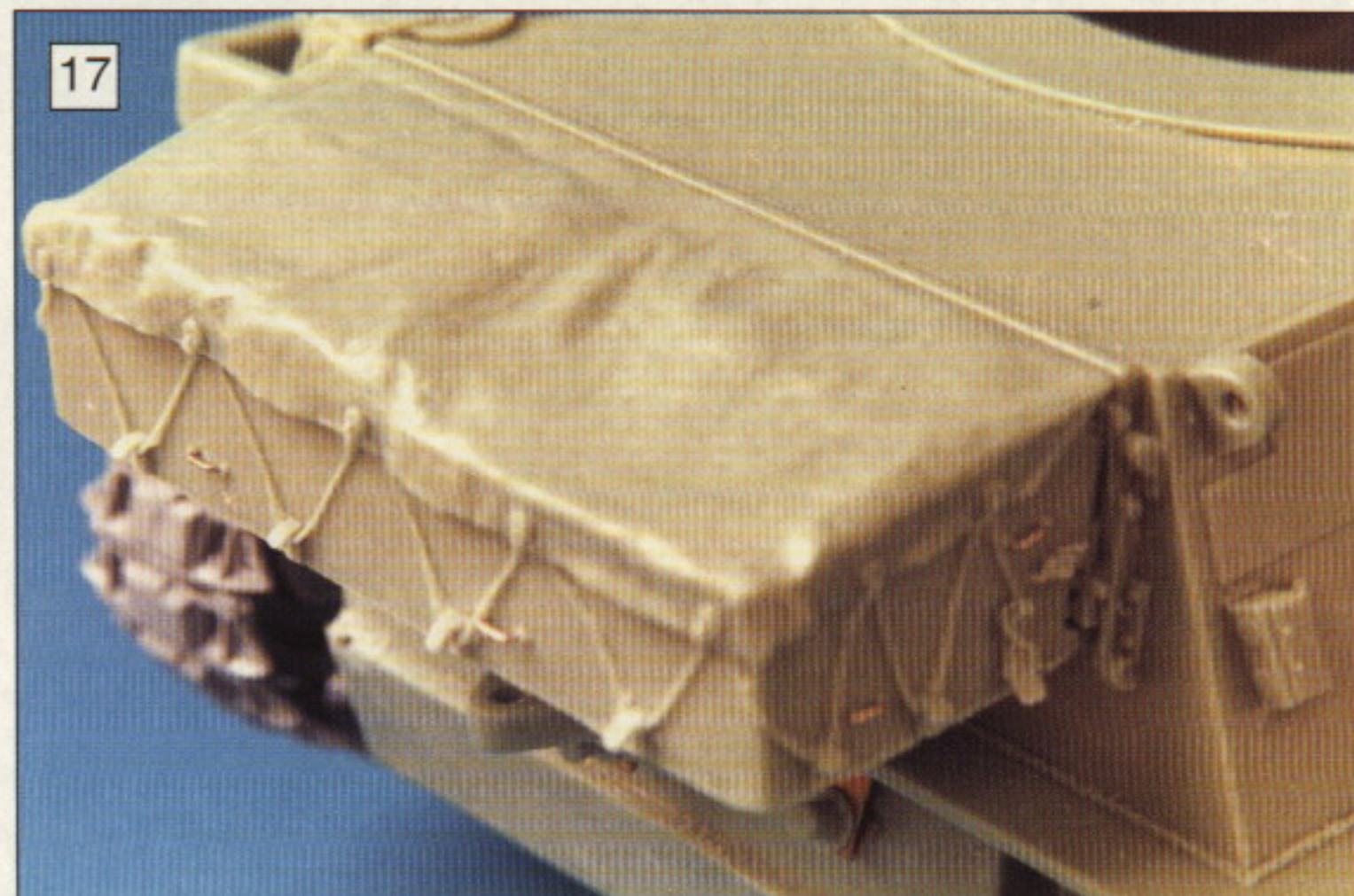
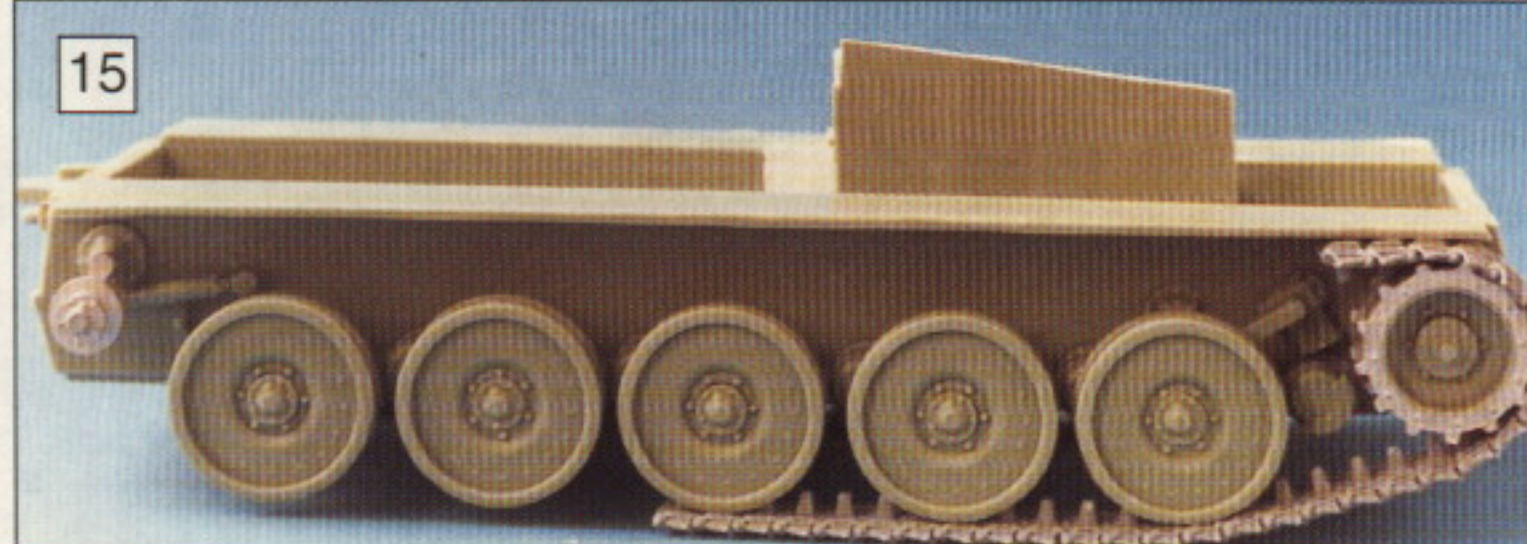
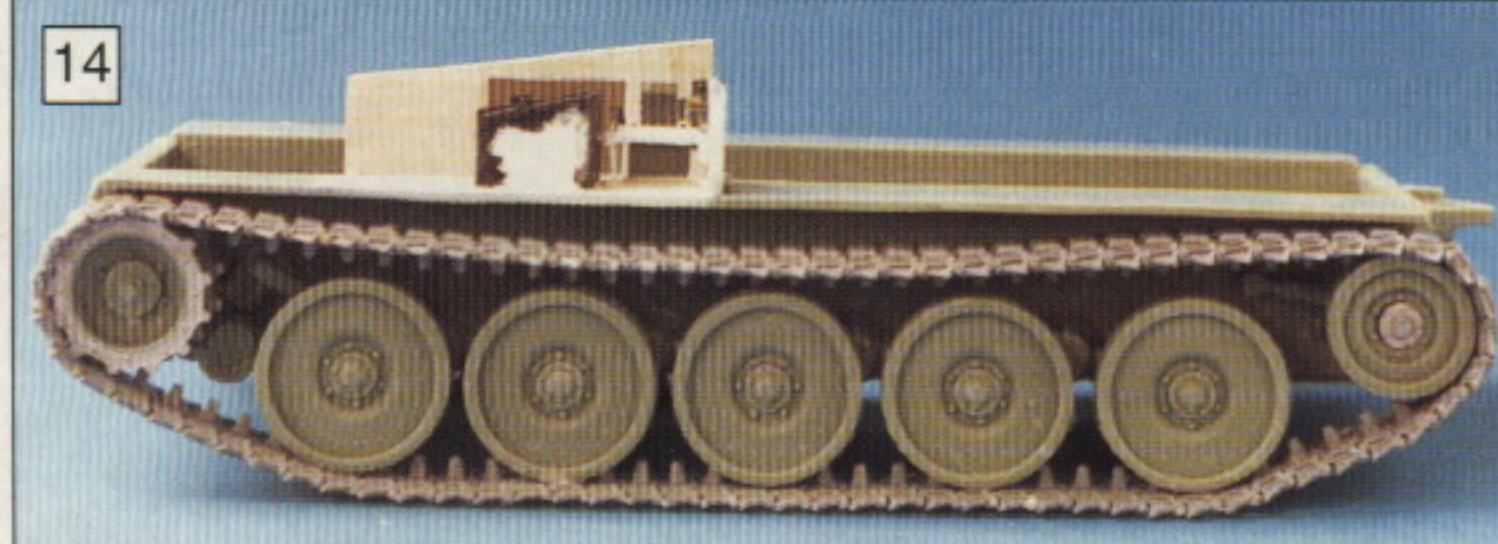
The next stage was adding the wheels and tracks, no real problems were found here except



I could not find Parts 3, the sprocket hubs. It was only after a while that I realised that the parts I was looking at were 30 and 31, three outer and three inner - not 30 and 31!. The sprocket rings No. 4 are cast in metal and after some minimal cleaning up were warmed by hands and then push-fitted onto No. 3. Once I was sure that the rings were in alignment a small drop of super glue was used to bond them into position. The wheels were added, but three of them would not sit correctly, it was only a matter of pouring boiling hot water onto them and as the resin became warm it was simple to alter them into the correct alignment.

Link and length

The tracks are link and length and the instructions mention that the longer lengths, 10 links long, should go on the bottom and the individual links should go around the sprocket and idler. As the tracks are so pliable I decided that I would heat up one of the long lengths and use this for the sprockets instead. I again used boiling water and it worked a dream. in fact, these tracks are so good, it did not take long to install them on the tank. Be aware that the top run of track should hang 5mm to 6mm above the centre road wheel. This is simple to achieve once a wedge is made to the cor-



14. The left track fitted. 15. Right track started. 16. A small gap is left once the wading plate is in position. 17. The rear stowage box is a beautiful piece of casting. 18. Hull top details around the driver's hatch in position. 19 Left hand side stowage in place in its clips. 20. Tool stowage on the right side front of the hull. 21. Left hand stowage bin in place.

rect size. all the information for this sequence is in the instructions.

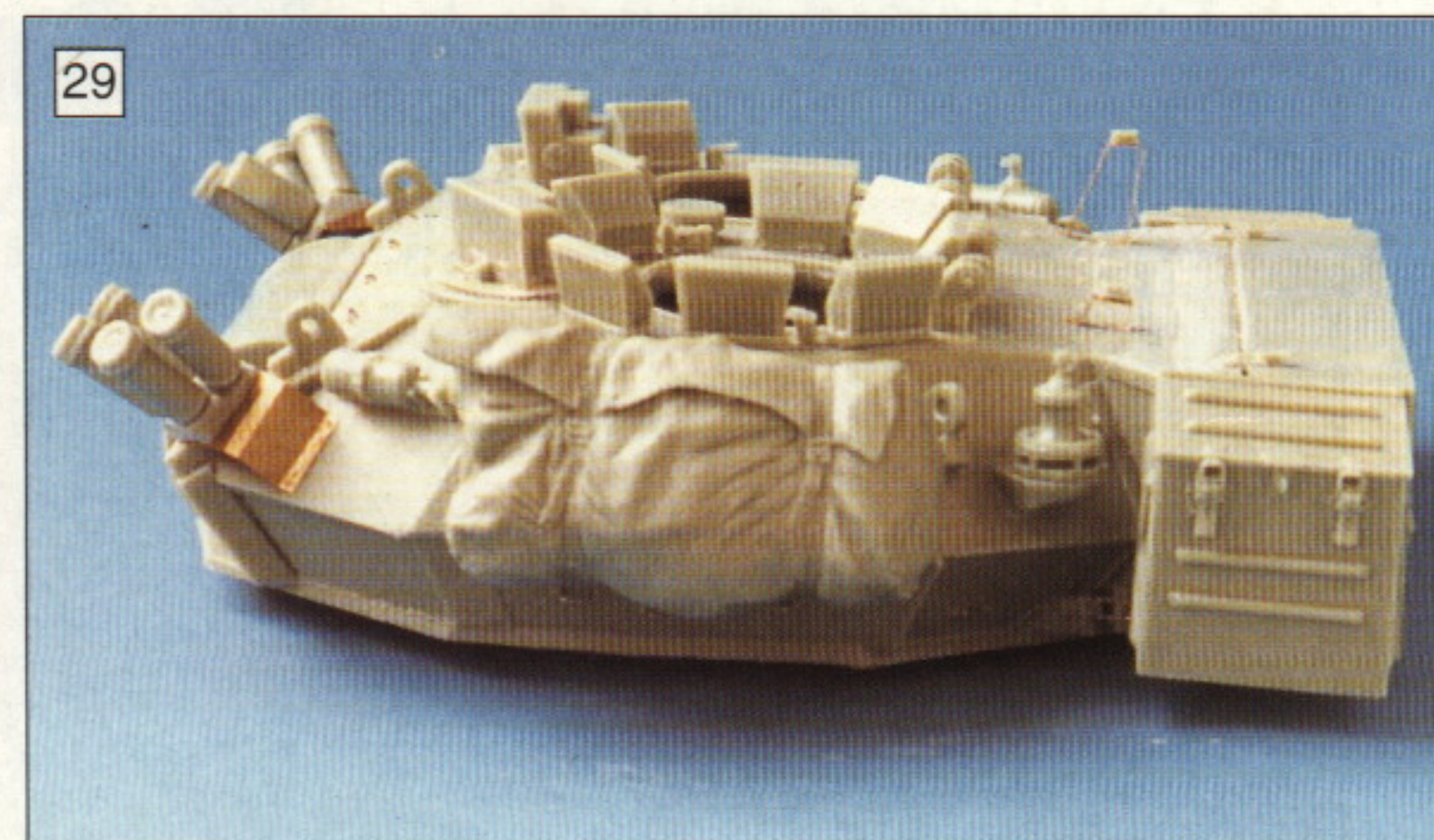
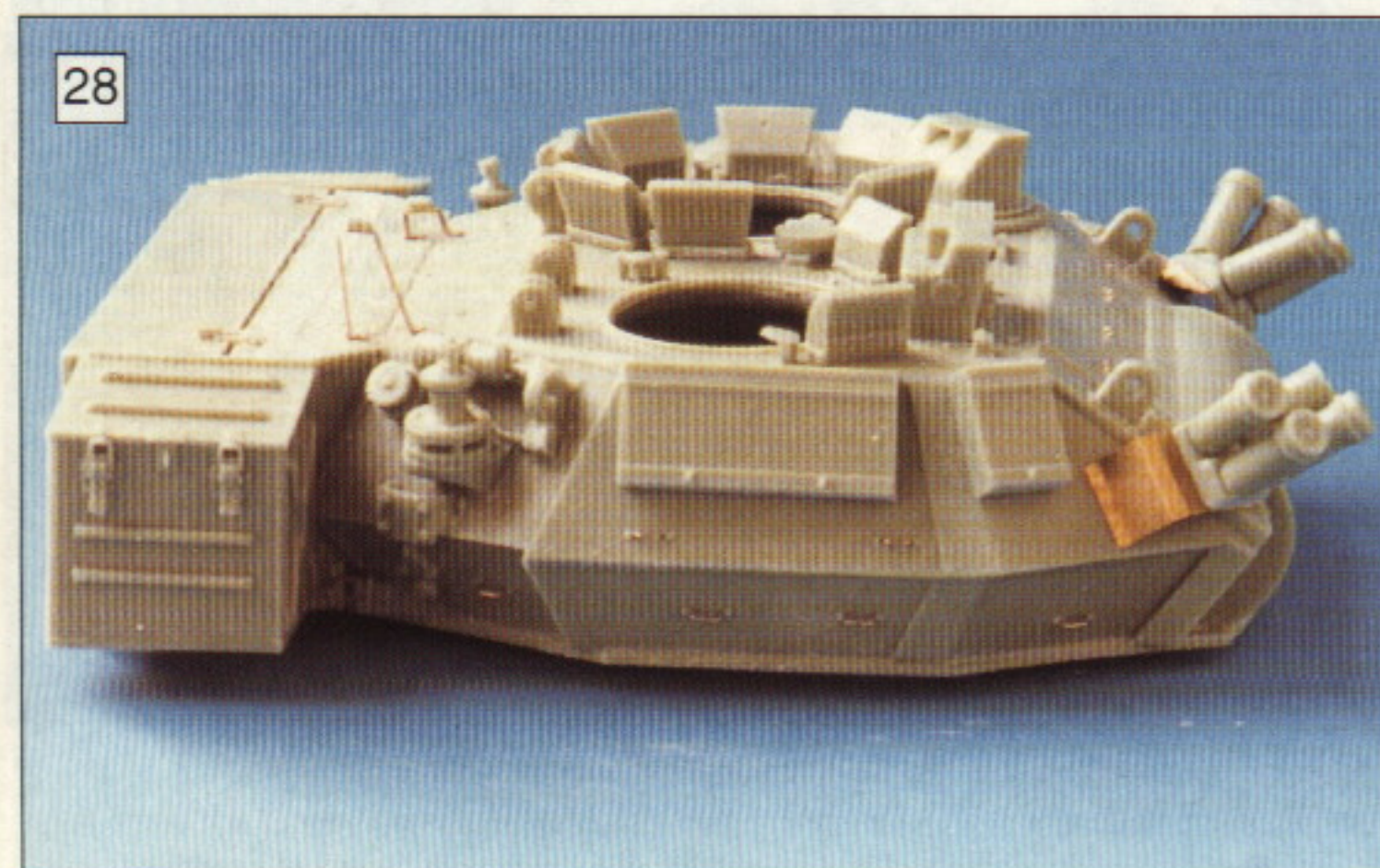
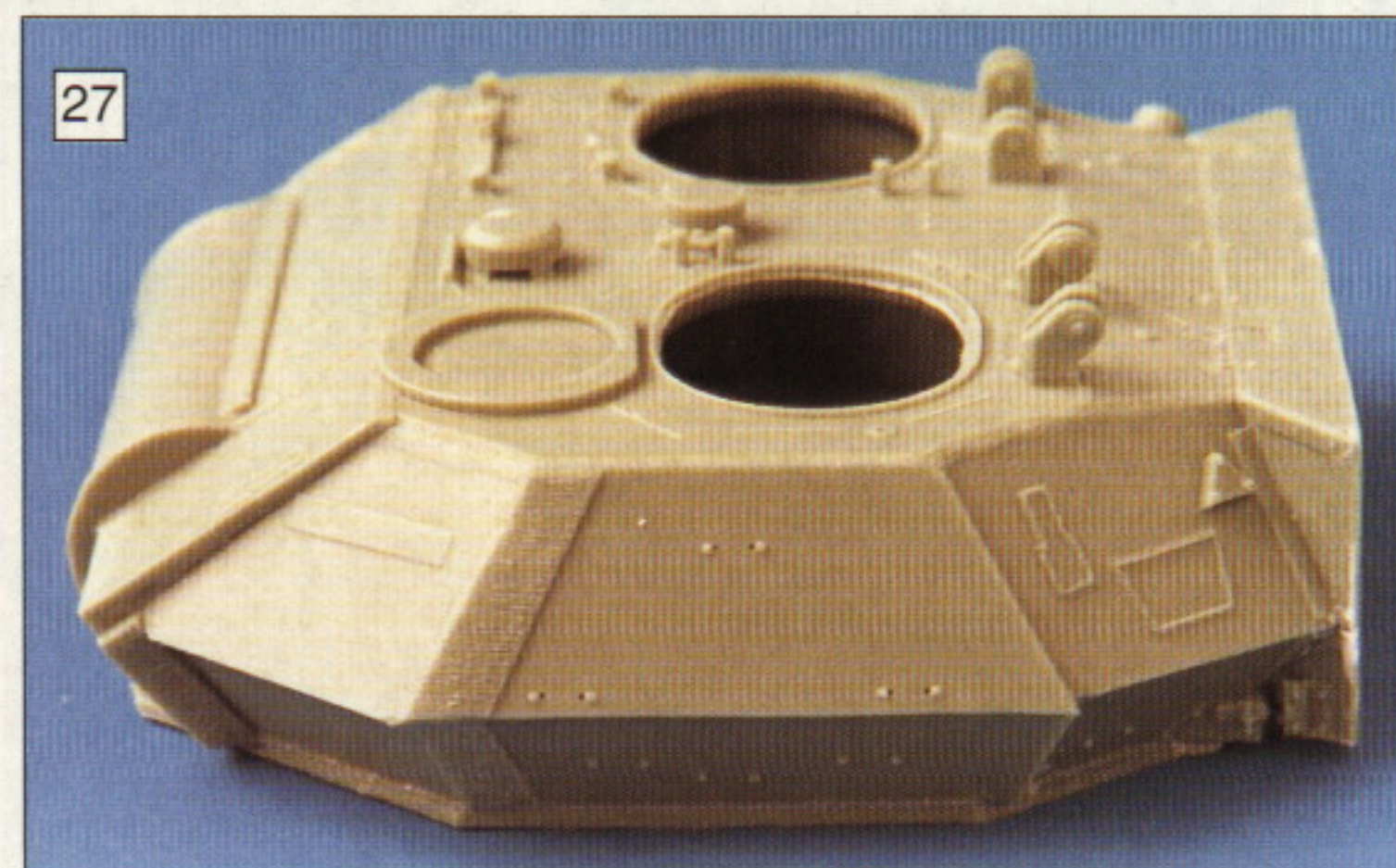
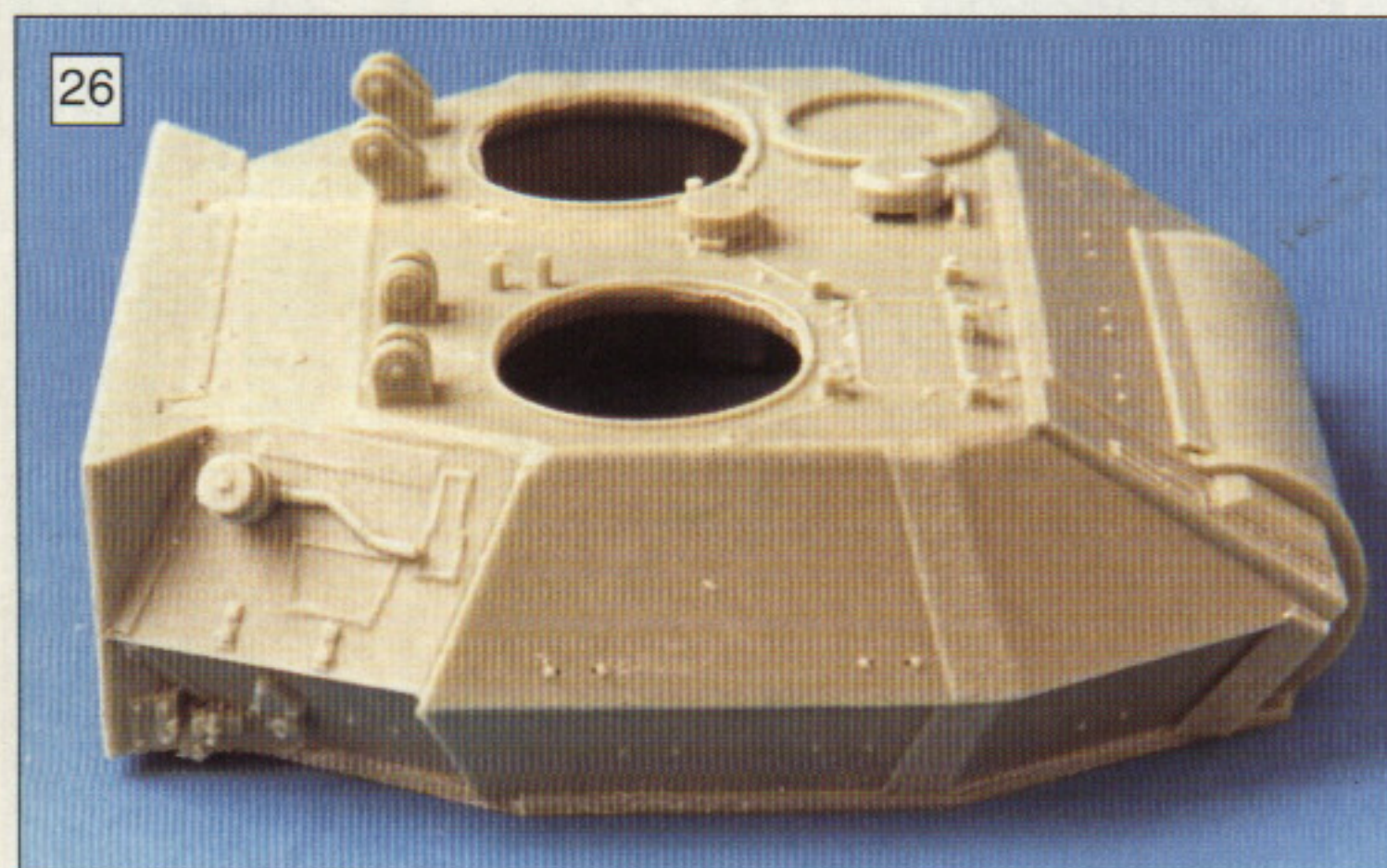
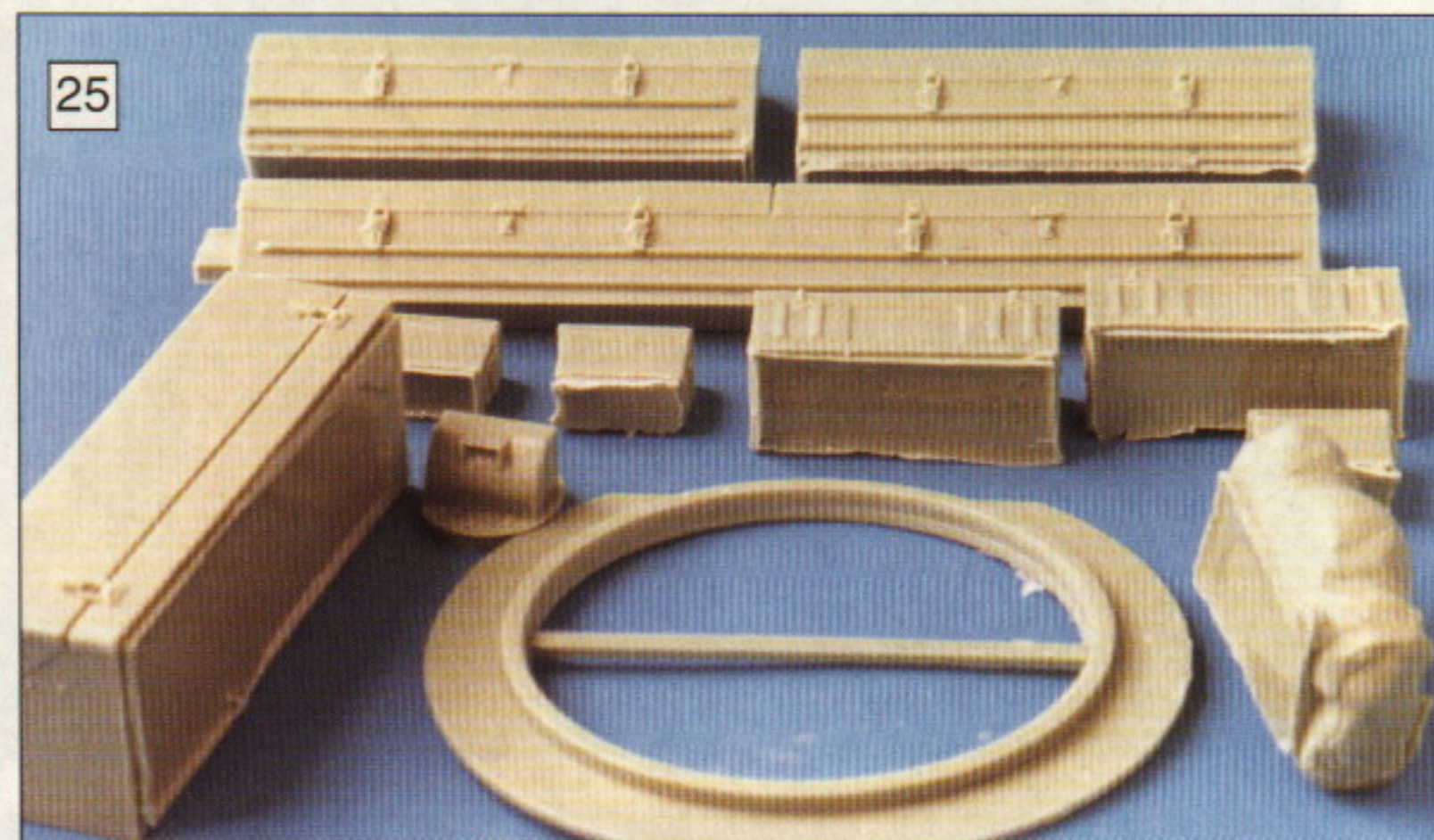
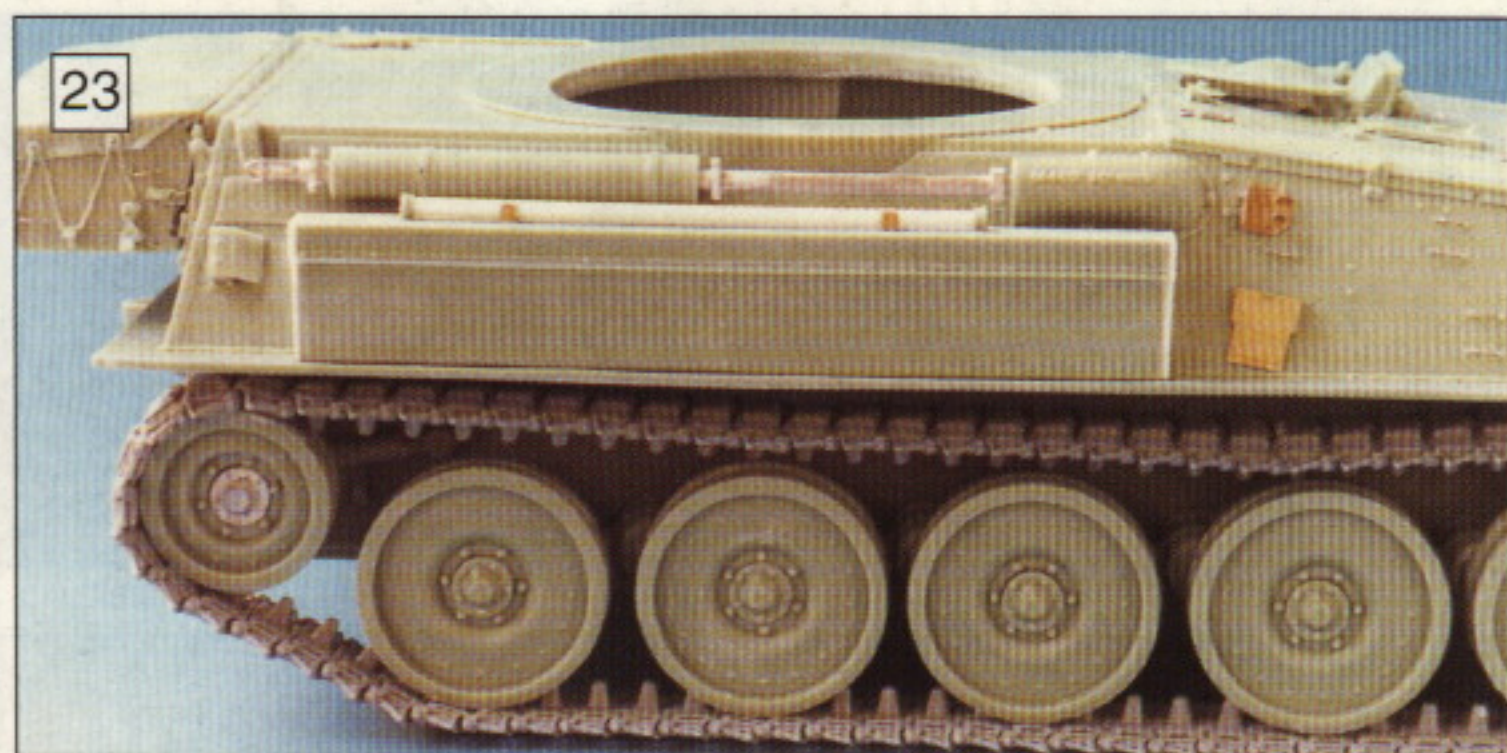
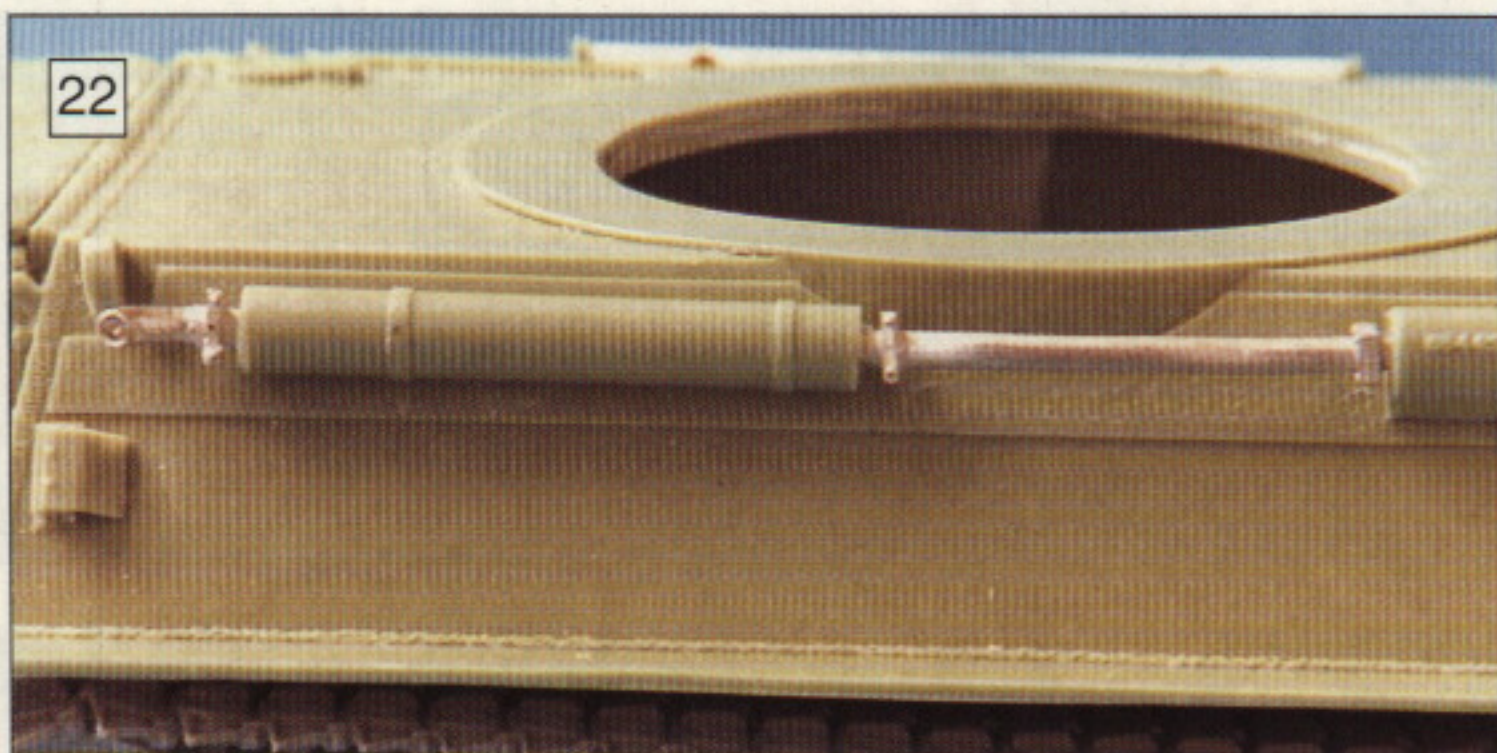
Further hull fittings

The rest of the top hull fittings go on really easy and there is even a tool to used to bend the handles for the engine deck grilles. Parts

that may give cause for concern are No. 31 driver's warning lights. It is hard to see them in the photos but look closely it is there and No. 47. On the sheet the rear vent pipe should read No. 49. Other than these two points the rest of the fittings are 'a doddle!' Except for the tie-downs, that is. These are not hard to put in

place as each of the positions are clearly marked. It takes ages to drill out the holes and then bend the wire included in the kit, but after the first 20 or so it becomes very easy.

The front wading plate in my kit was slightly oversized, but all that was needed



22. Exhaust pipe and silencer in place on the right rear hull. 23. Left bin transferred to the right side of the hull. 24. Camouflage net made up from Milliput with plastic card straps. 25. Stowage bins, boxes, bag and turret base. 26. Right side of the one-piece turret casting. 27. Left side of the one-piece turret casting. 28. Right side of turret with details added. 29. Left side of turret with details in place. The bag was replaced with a stowage box.

was to cut it down slight and re-drill the large hole in the corner. a small gap was left which I filled with Milliput. At this stage you should also think about drilling out the holes in the wading plate. On the real vehicle this plate is very thin and there were

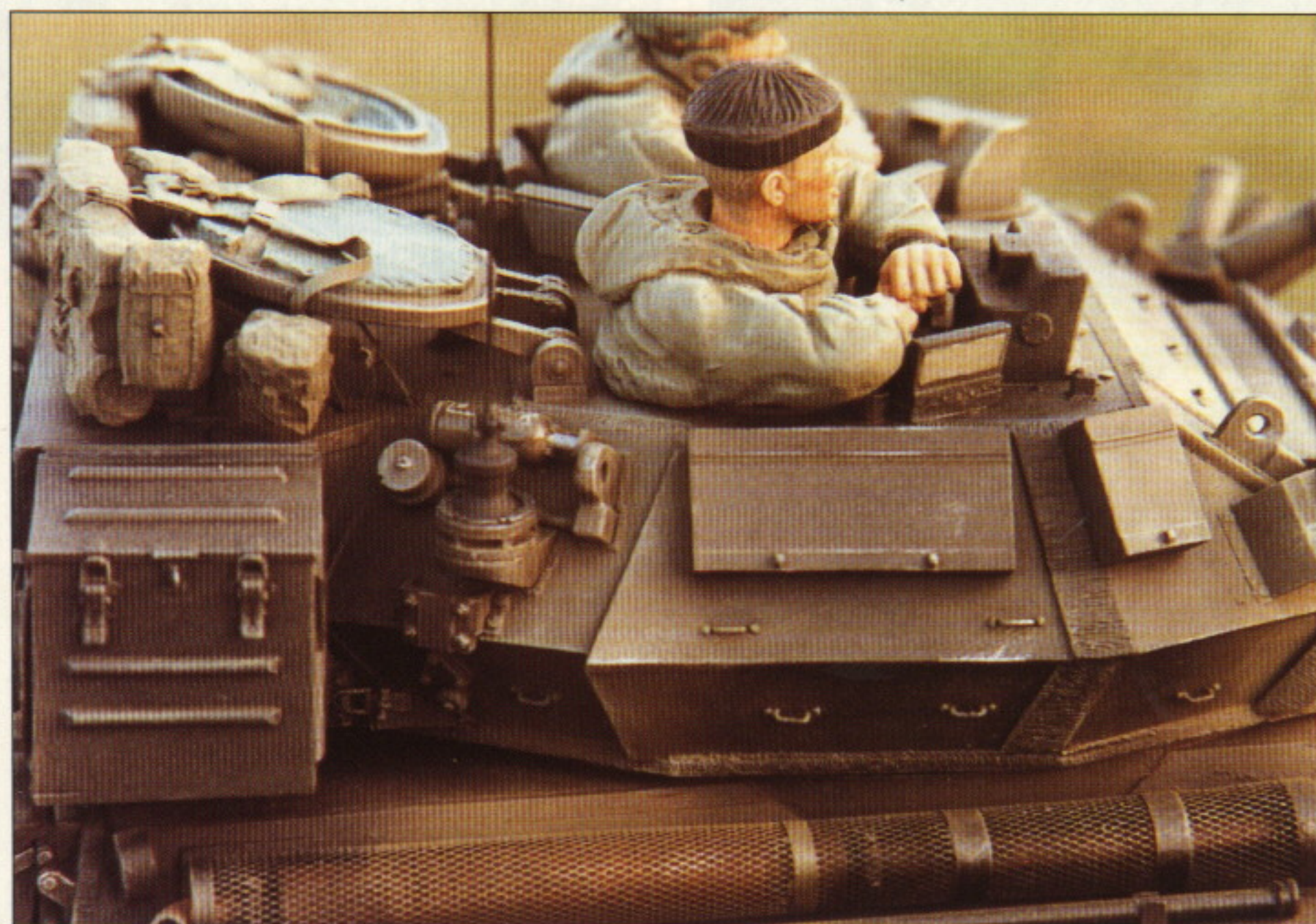
about 168 nuts and bolts which were used to hold the wading screen in place. For the kit I scraped down the plate so it wasn't too thick and I did drill out the holes, even though I was toying with the idea of adding a screen later.

Refer to photos

I added the tool stowage as it was shown in the instructions and all was well until I remembered a couple of photos in an issue of *Military In Scale* magazine, (December



A Scimitar of the Blues and Royals in a 'hull down' position during the Falklands campaign. Note the extra stowage and camouflage nets of a British vehicle on active service. The ammunition boxes on the hull front are noteworthy as is the canvas protective cover over the 30mm Rarden gun cradle where it joins the mantlet.



1996) which showed a Scimitar of the Blues and Royals, in Germany. I decided to make my model as near to these photos as I possibly could.

It may be fate or just luck, but the Blues and Royals were the first cavalry regiment to receive the Scorpion, the sister vehicle to Scimitar in 1973. Scorpion now out of British army service was armed with a short 76.2mm gun in the turret whereas Scimitar was fitted with a 30mm Rarden cannon.

The idea was easy to fulfil because of the amount of spares in the kit, there being sufficient included to produce any configuration. I used the Chieftain stowage bins for the left side; i.e. facing

forward. The bin I removed from the left rear was added to the right rear side. To improve this I beefed up the bin adding two new ends from plastic card and a new top was also made up. To give the vehicle an 'in service' appearance I also added a cut down the Chieftain bin and to the right front side as well.

At this stage I should mention that care should be taken when handling the model as there are some exquisite castings on the body that can be knocked off easily.

The brass exhaust mesh screen was bent around a pencil and then offered up to the hull to see if it was correct. Once I was happy with the configuration I set it aside until the vehicle was painted.



Photographs of the finished model were taken by the author outside in natural light against a natural background of trees sufficiently distanced from the model to give a scale effect. If you have a 1:15 scale AFV why not try photographing it like this. It works with smaller models too.

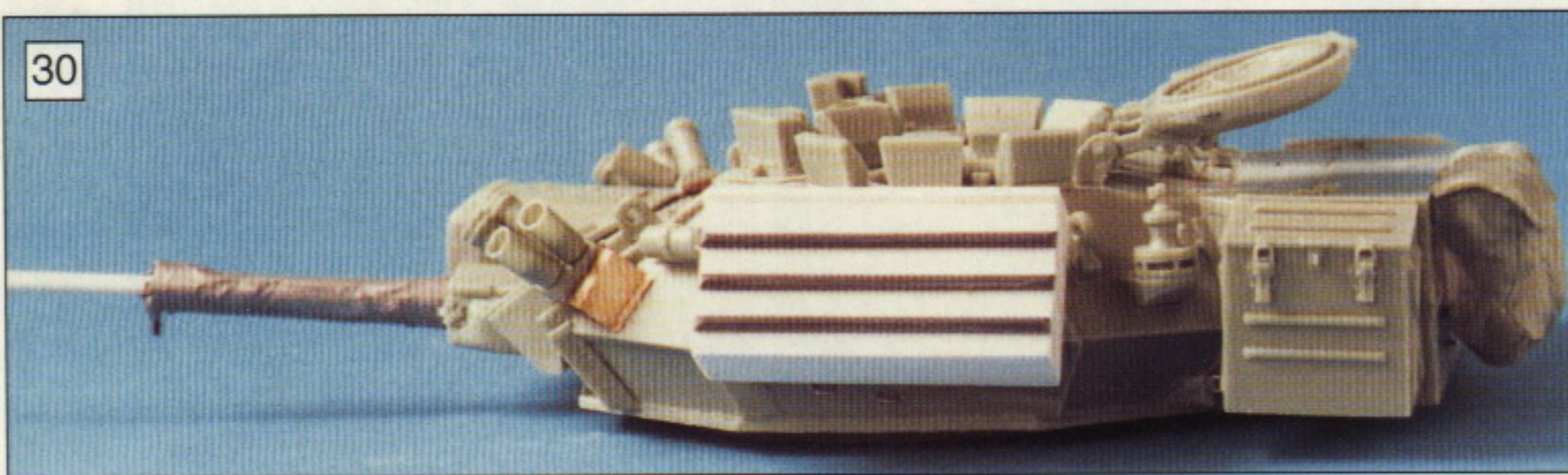
The turret

the turret is, like the hull, a superb one-piece moulding with cast on detail that defies description in its excellence. The placement of the major parts is straightforward.

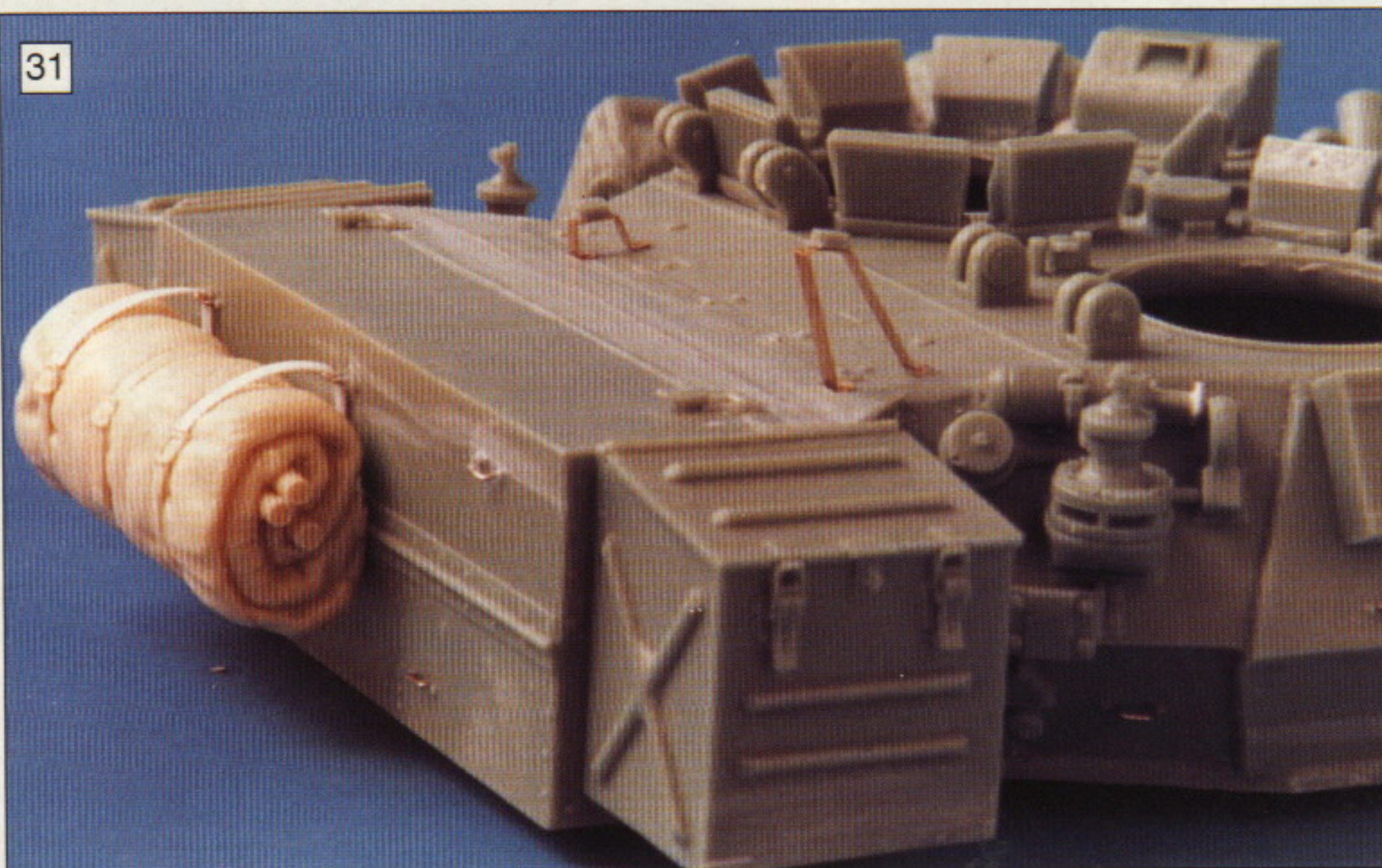
The pieces that take a bit of working out are the smoke dischargers and their placement is a bit vague. However, by studying photos and looking at the box illustration I think I got them right. As long as you study the instructions all the turret details are easy to glue into position.

Because I have based my model on the photos mentioned I needed to add a camouflage net cover to the front of the tank. this was made using Milliput with the straps made up from plastic card. I did add a tent

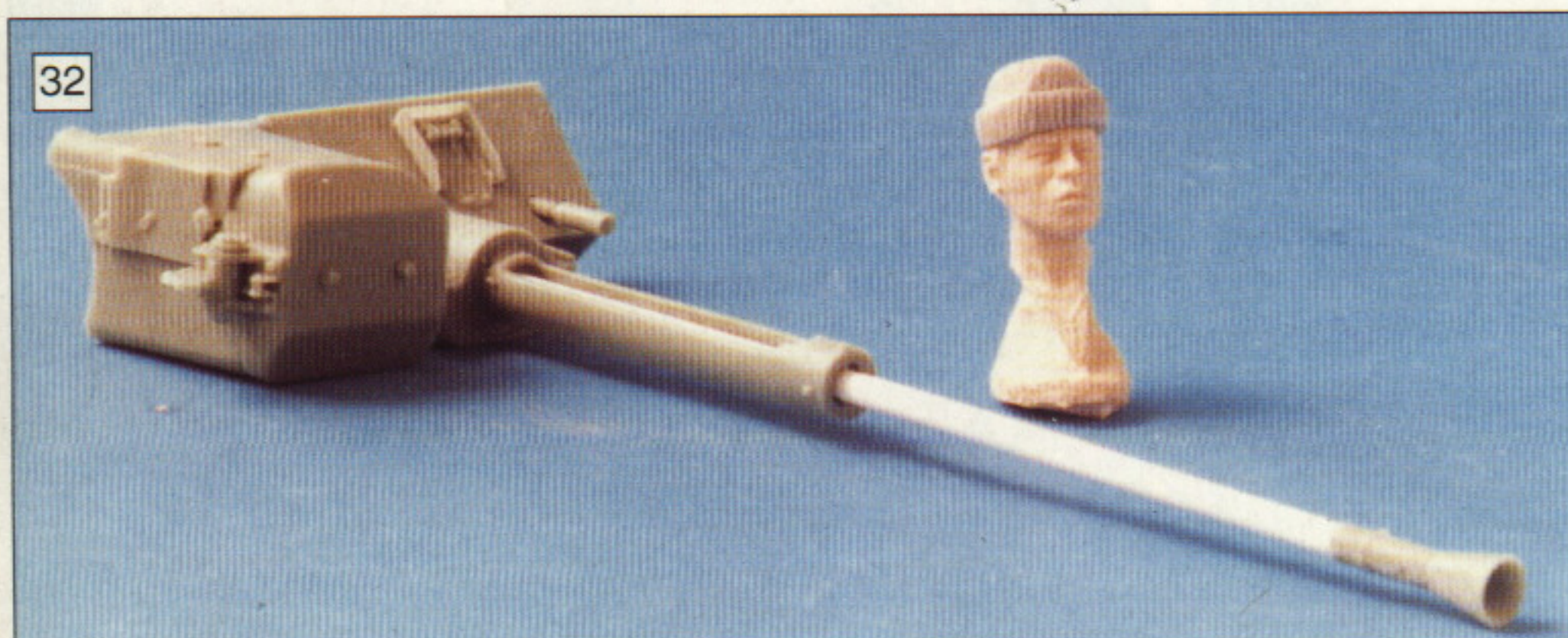
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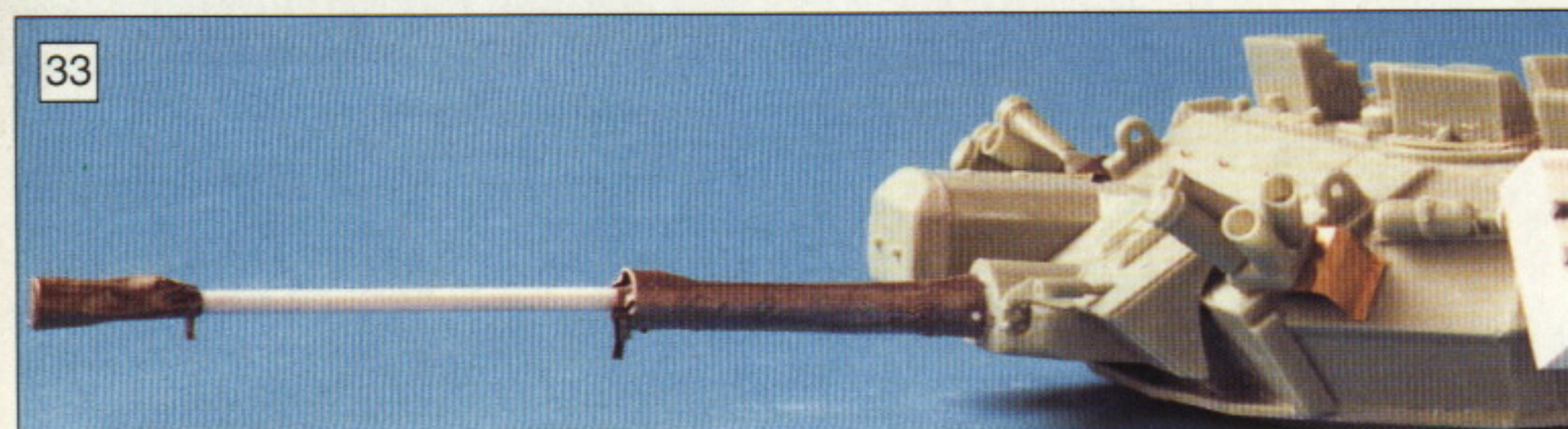
31



32



33



30. A stowage bin has replaced the bag on the left side of the turret. 31. The original position of the roll. This was replaced by the bag when the stowage bin was added to the left side of the turret. 32. The Rarden gun barrel fitted to the cradle on the mantlet. One of the crew figure's replacement heads with a helmet comforter added from Milliput is alongside. 33. Protective covers represented by metal foil added to muzzle and cradle.

roll on the rear of the turret, but this was removed when I decided to make the very non standard box on the left side of the turret. The box is only plastic card with some half-round beading added. I have not seen any other pictures showing a box like this, so I can only assume that it was made especially for this vehicle.

All the dimensions for the gun barrel are shown and some extra pieces I added were a copper tube inside the barrel (to ensure it did not bend) of the Rarden gun along with a couple of debris covers on the muzzle end and middle. The covers were made from lead sheet with the lead being wrapped around a pencil first, to obtain a tube, then

once glued on, it was pushed down as if the weight of the cover had sunk onto and under the barrel.

The crew figures

Accurate Armour supply three figures with the kit, but as the Blues and Royals crew I needed to model all wore different headgear I decided to change them. The driver in the photo is wearing a neck scarf which I shaped so that the open end is tucked into the bottom edge once it had been rolled up slightly. I spoke to an ex-soldier who said that it was quite common for the men to do this, so I hope I have got it right.

The loader is wearing what I have been told is called a helmet warmer as it was quite normal for some men to wear service issue helmets; this was borrowed from a Verlinden Productions figure.

Removing the heads on two of the figures was not difficult and I used two heads that were in my spares box; one from a Kirin figure of the Vietnam War and the other a 'give away' I picked up at Euro Militaire some time ago.

Painting

I airbrushed the model Humbrol No. 155 Olive Drab and once dry No. 33 Black was added. The decals supplied in the kit were added and then the whole model was sealed with a coat of matt varnish.

I wanted the vehicle to look dirty and worn so the whole of the lower hull received a spray of Humbrol No. 29 Dark Earth and then once this had dried No. 110 Natural Wood was sprayed over to give a very faded look to the paint work. The lights were painted No. 174 Signal Red for the tops and the rear lowers were finished with a mix of Cadmium Red Hue and Raw Umber oil paint. The front lower lights were left plain white, the colour they are moulded in.

On the back of the mudguards there is a shaped plate, kind of square, but with a smaller square cut out. This is not an error! On the full size vehicle the square is a metal plate that the rubber mudguard lays against so that the tracks do not damage the rubber. If you wish for further realism cut off the brass around the squares and just leave this in place.

I had painted the barrel where the recoil is evident, but as it did not look shiny enough I stuck on a piece of metal foil cut from food wrapping.

The kinetic tow ropes were made from the rope supplied in the kit. I had trouble gluing them together so I sewed the ends up using clear nylon string. To make them 'dirty' I spread some Raw Umber oil paint on a piece of kitchen towel and dragged the rope through it.

I didn't really like the look of the lights after I'd painted them and decided to drill out the lenses and glue in some foil reflectors. I added bulbs from the top of dress makers pins and the glass was produced from a piece of clear acetate. In this scale you can produce lights in component form with reflectors, bulbs and lenses.

The commander's and gunner's sights do not look realistic when painted, but the only way to give them depth would be to drill them out and then add clear acetate. As I had glued them in place this proved too difficult and I ended up painting them anyway.

To finish off, the whole vehicle was dry-brushed and then the figures added.

This is the first Accurate Armour kit I have

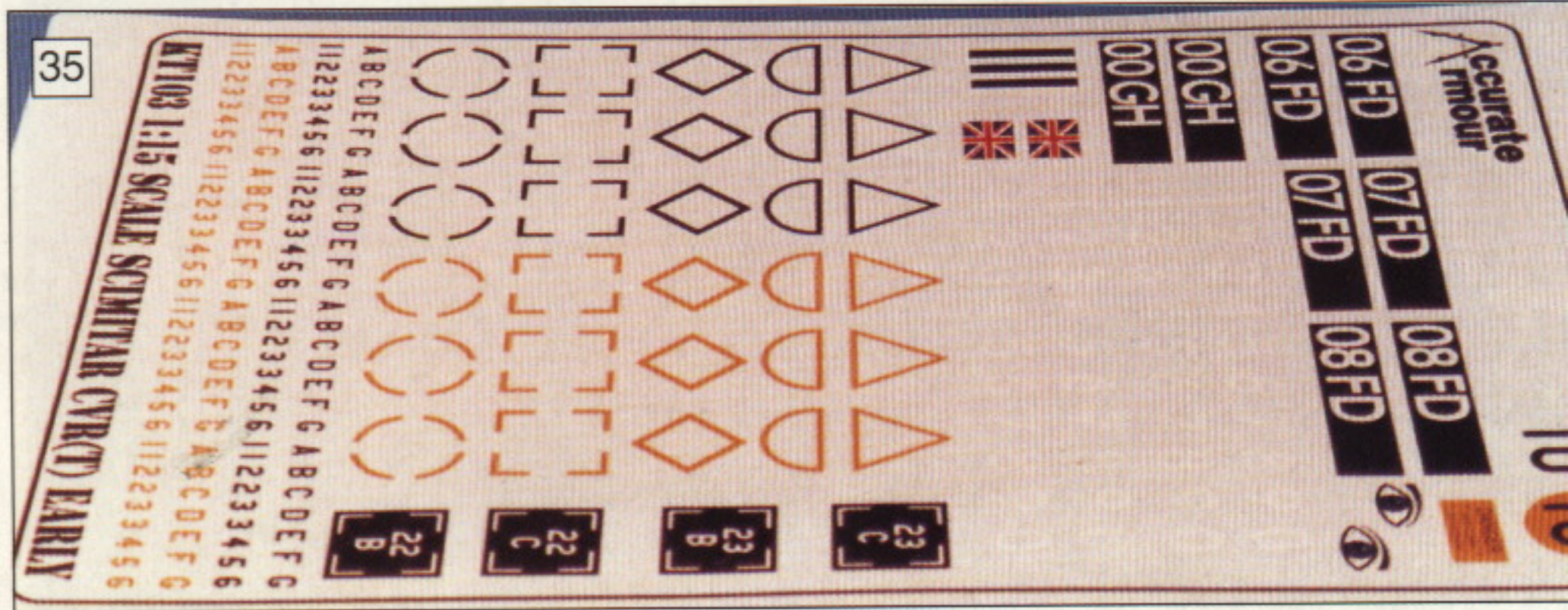
built and it made me realise what I have been missing. This is a beautiful kit to build, excellently cast, superbly detailed and it really does capture the look of the real vehicle. Accurate Armour hint that this is their first 1:15 scale British AFV model kit which, hopefully, means there may be more to follow! Whatever the outcome, all I know is that when kits are as good as this then you really are getting value for money.

Availability

The Scimitar kit (KT103) is available from Accurate Armour Ltd., Units 15-16 Kingston Industrial Estate, Port Glasgow, Inverclyde, Scotland, PA14 5DG. Tel: 01475 743955. Price £245.

Bibliography

Scorpion Reconnaissance Vehicle 1972-1994
New Vanguard No. 13, Chris Foss and Simon Dunstan. ISBN 1-85532-390-7.
Scorpion and the CVR(T) Family, Bob Morrison. ISBN 962-361-0440.



34. Modified crew figures and equipment. 35. The comprehensive decal sheet included in the kit.





The finished model - the first of two kits painted by the author and used on the Fort Royal Review box wrapper.

Falklands Para

Tony Wilbraham paints Fort Royal Review's 120mm kit of the British Para - Falklands 1982



The kit parts are all cast in polyurethane resin except for the submachine-gun with the figure's right hand cast on which is in white metal. Note how the boots are cast onto the circular scenic base, a Fort Royal Review 'trademark'.



If, like me, you attend the many shows up and down the country, you will often see one or two figures themed around the Falklands campaign, but how many of these figures are painted correctly? In my view, not many, for a campaign that was not so long ago and, as I started my army career in 1982, the uniform and equipment is still fresh in my mind. Therefore, it's only necessary to put my first hand knowledge into a model and show that painting a



ABOVE LEFT: The assembled figure with painting under way. The top of the right side pouch has been built up with filler. ABOVE CENTRE: Rear view of the first stage. ABOVE RIGHT: Webbing painted, brown applied to the jacket and work has begun on the trousers; putties and boots have been undercoated.



The second para painted by the author is on a muddy scenic base to represent the black muddy terrain encountered in the Falkland Islands. Note the subtle differences in tone between the camouflaged jacket and trousers so often encountered on British soldiers, but rarely in model form. Try this next time you paint a figure wearing camouflage clothing.

'camouflaged figure' is not all that daunting and is quite easily achieved.

The figure I chose is of simple stature that would show the Disruptive Pattern Material (DPM) camouflage pattern to effect and is the British para from Fort Royal Review. The kit comes well packaged, in a box, with both a front and back view colour photograph of the figure on the wrapper which, for me, is a nice touch.

A slight alteration

After removing all the moulding plugs and washing all the components in soapy water I assembled the figure. A little filler was required around the top of the legs and a little bit around the puttees.

A major problem, albeit a small one, was the webbing pouches being made to fit

around the bottom of the webbing belt rather than the top. This was easily remedied by building up a little Milliput on top of the pouches, mainly the water bottle and right hand magazine pouch. The left hand pouch does not fit quite right under his hand, and does not give the impression that it's attached to his belt. Again, this was easily solved by sawing a few millimetres off the



Here's an interesting shot with the figure photographed in subdued light against a photo backdrop of the night sky criss-crossed with tracer.

top of the pouch then repositioning the pouch snugly under his hand/arm. Once I was happy with this, I glued it into position. Milliput was then built up behind his arm to simulate the pouch fitting correctly to his webbing belt. The only other bit of filler needed was the respirator pouch to the belt.

I drilled a hole into the recess where the head fits and then drilled a hole into the bottom of the head. The purpose of this is so that I can glue a piece of straightened paper clip wire into the head. The purpose of this is twofold; it is easier to hold and paint the head and, when painting is finished, the clip is cut down a little and the clip and head is inserted into the hole and recess on the body.

The painting stages

I do all my figure painting with Winsor and Newton Series 7 paint brushes, which are of extremely good quality within a price range of £4 to £6. All the painting on this figure was in Humbrol enamel paints, apart from the face, which was done in artists' oil colours.

The first stage was to undercoat the face in No. 61 Flesh, with the first jacket colour being painted in No. 103 Cream. At this

stage the shirt and jumper were painted; the shirt in No. 102 Army Green and the jumper in No. 155 Olive Drab. The figure was then left to dry for 24 hours.

I then proceeded to paint the face. My colour mixture for this was Titanium White, Cadmium Yellow, and Burnt Sienna. These colours are mixed to a very pale flesh colour which is painted onto the face. Then, using a large brush, the excess paint is taken off. Highlighting and shading can then be carried out. On this figure it was very straightforward, with highlights done in pure white and blended into the base coat, with the shadow areas done in Burnt Sienna and again blended-in. In all, this process kept the face cool, looking for the Falklands climate without going overboard. The head was left to dry.

The jacket was then given its second camouflage pattern which is the green applied in irregular patches. Lines and tiny dots were painted in No. 150 Forest Green. The figure was then left to dry for a further 24 hours.

I undercoated the beret in No. 153 Insignia Red and painted the hair in No. 33 Black, the eyeballs in No. 34 White, and left this to dry for 24 hours.

To complete the jacket, the brown was applied in irregular patches and overlaid in places over the green. The brown I used was No. 170 Brown Bess, which was left to dry for about one hour, then the black was painted on using the same technique.

After this had dried I painted the webbing. This is not as straight forward as you think, because from pouch to pouch, and including the webbing belt, can be different shades of green. Anyway, I painted the magazine, water bottle pouch and 'bum roll' in No. 159 Khaki Drab, but varied the shade from pouch to pouch accordingly, either lightening or darkening the shade. The respirator pouch was painted in No. 116 US Dark Green plus a touch of black. The top half of the figure was left to dry at this stage.

A base coat for the trousers was painted on with No. 83 Ochre and after this had dried I painted the green patches in No. 105 Marine Green, the same way as the jacket. At this same stage the puttees were painted in No. 119 Natural Wood, but could be painted any khaki colour, as these would be 'lost', as would the boots, in dark wet mud later on. Up to this stage I put the figure to one side and left it to dry for 24 hours.

I went back to painting the head, finishing off the hair by just dry-brushing it in No. 170 Brown Bess. The eyes were given a little red in the corners to represent the veins and also to indicate them being a little bloodshot and fatigued. Once the red had dried the pupils were painted in Burnt Umber. For the pupils I painted in a small dot then, with a little

turps on a dry brush, very carefully starting at the centre of the pupil and working away towards the edge, took some of the Burnt Umber oil paint away. This not only takes the paint off, but dilutes it in the same process, so what you're left with is the dark edge of the pupil gradually becoming lighter at the centre. When this has dried, the iris can then be painted in using a tiny dot of black in the centre of the pupil.

Facial stubble was added by mixing Burnt Umber and a little black, then using an almost dry-brushing technique, the stubble was dabbed on. I then completed the face by putting bags under the eyes! Again, this is done very carefully. My method is to put a tiny dot of black underneath the eyes then, with a small brush dipped in turps, the black is feathered underneath the eyes. This, for me, completes the face by giving him that battle-weary look of tiredness and fatigue.

To finish off the beret I mixed Scarlet Lake and Purple Madder Alizarin. This mix when painted on only 'stained' the beret, so when it was dry, I repainted the beret until it acquired the depth that I was happy with. The cap badge was painted black to represent the black boot polish applied by the paras to eliminate any reflected glare providing a target for a sniper. The badge was then very carefully dry-brushed in silver on certain raised areas to show the bright silver of the badge showing through where the boot polish had worn off.

Final steps for the jacket and webbing was to give them a black wash by adding black oil paint around them and then, with a dry brush dipped in turps, take the paint off. This gives the jacket and webbing a black, dirty look that resembled the black peaty earth of the Falklands and also flowed into any recesses producing any shadows needed. The jacket was now complete and the webbing was finished off by painting any buckles in dark green.

Finally, the brown was the next part of the DPM pattern to be painted on the trousers in No. 186 Brown and No. 170 Brown Bess, with a touch of red. When it was dry, the black pattern was painted over the top, and when this dried the black wash technique for the jacket was also applied to the trousers.

The gloves and Sterling 9mm submachine-gun were painted in No. 33 Black and when the weapon was dry, I scratched it in certain areas with a scalpel to allow the kit's natural white metal to show through from underneath representing wear and tear.

A scenic base

The final step was to place the figure on the base. The groundwork was produced from Polyfilla and painted in a mix of black and Burnt Umber. I then sprinkled some very fine grit sand into the paint mix which was then dabbed onto the figure from his boots up to his knees to represent the clinging mud. When the groundwork had dried, I drilled various holes in it, put some super glue in them then 'plant' the tall grass. I then added No. 35 Gloss Varnish in certain areas of the groundwork to represent the wet boggy muddy surface.

Availability

The Fort Royal Review kit, FR58 British Para costs £27 and is available mail order from 25 Woolhope Road, Worcester, WR5 2AR postage extra. ■



ABOVE LEFT: Mercenary Officer of Horse, 1642 by Chris Tasker-54mm conversion. ABOVE RIGHT: Knight of Outremer by Patrick Langham-90mm original figure/horse stock Fort Duquesne.

Chicago 1997

Phil Kessling reports on the premier US Military Miniature Show of last year

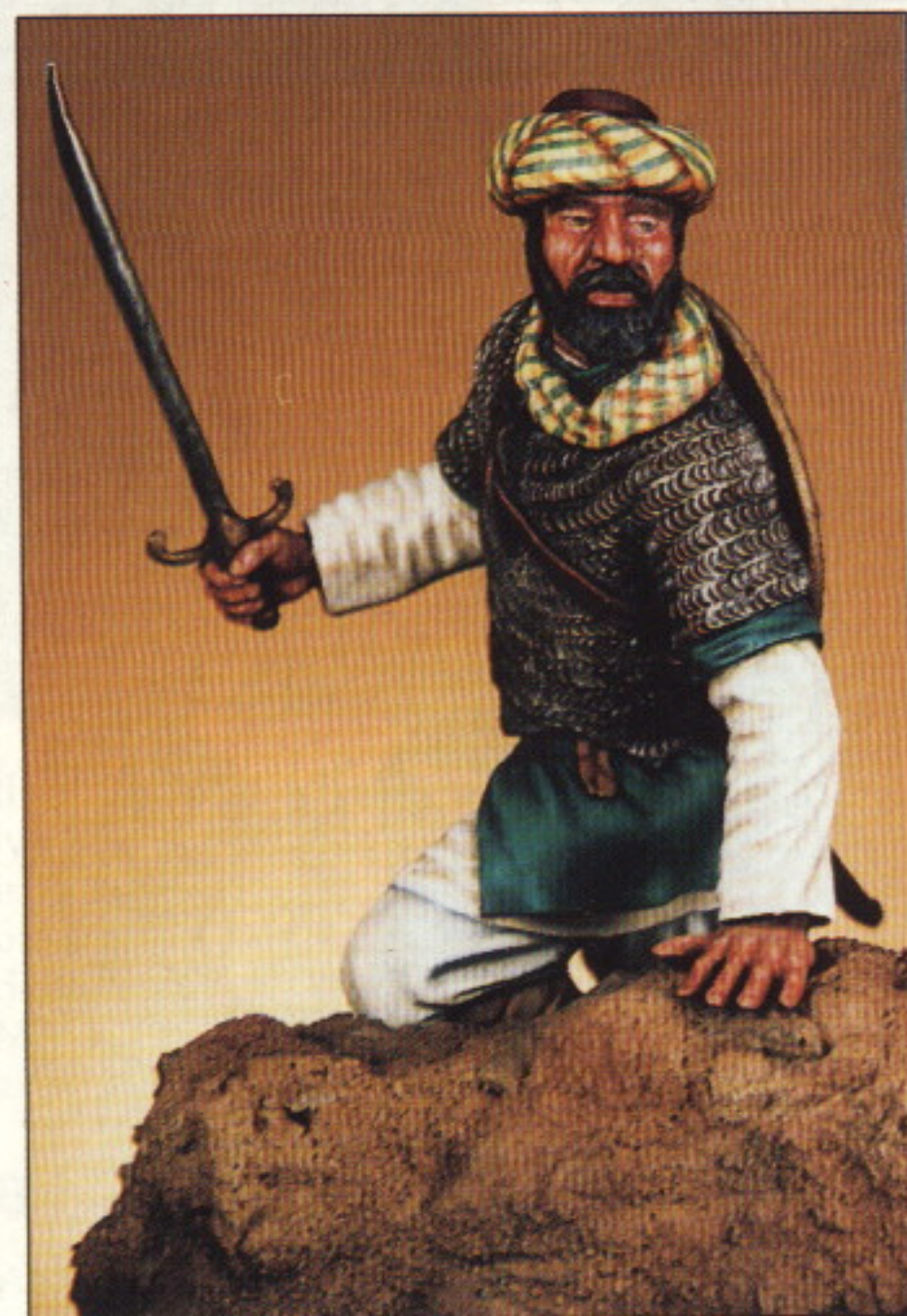


British SAS, LRDG by James Rice-200mm original.

The 1997 Chicago Show proved to be the US Military Miniature Exhibit of the year. What made this year's show special was the attendance of several of Europe's top miniaturists. In addition to bringing their own work, they also brought along the work of some of their fellow countrymen. The hotel bar and the club hospitality suite were the sites of numerous international gatherings.

The Chicago Medal

Since the quality of the exhibits was so high, I will not have enough room to mention all of the noteworthy pieces. I will start with the Chicago Medal, which is awarded for sustained excellence over several years. An unprecedented event occurred this year with the selection of Derek Hansen as a Chicago Medallist. Derek became the first award winner from outside of North America. This was the second time that Derek had attended the show. However, his work has been displayed on numerous other occasions and his '17th Regiment of Foot, 1854' was a fine example of his exceptional sculpting and painting talents.



Iraqi Arab Auxiliary by Greg Bowman-90mm stock Decima.

Although it is unusual to award two Chicago Medals in a single year, it is done on rare occasions. Therefore, the selection committee (previous Chicago medallists) voted unanimously to award Doug Cohen with a Chicago Medal. Doug's display was large and impressive, and simply could not go unrecognised. It covered all periods from



ABOVE LEFT: Caucasian Mountain Rider by Roland Laffert-90mm Elisena stock. ABOVE RIGHT: Junot by Bill Ottinger-54mm Historex conversion.



ABOVE LEFT: Peter the Great by Dave Hoffman-90mm stock Pegaso. ABOVE MIDDLE: Landsknecht Drummer by Keith Engledow-54mm conversion. ABOVE RIGHT: Voltigeur, Irlandaise by Ron Souza-54mm conversion Metal Modeles.

Ancient Celts to World War II GIs. One of my favourite pieces was his English Civil War Cavalryman. He also received a gold medal for his two-figure Rough Rider vignette, 'G Troop.' In my opinion, this was Doug's best display ever!

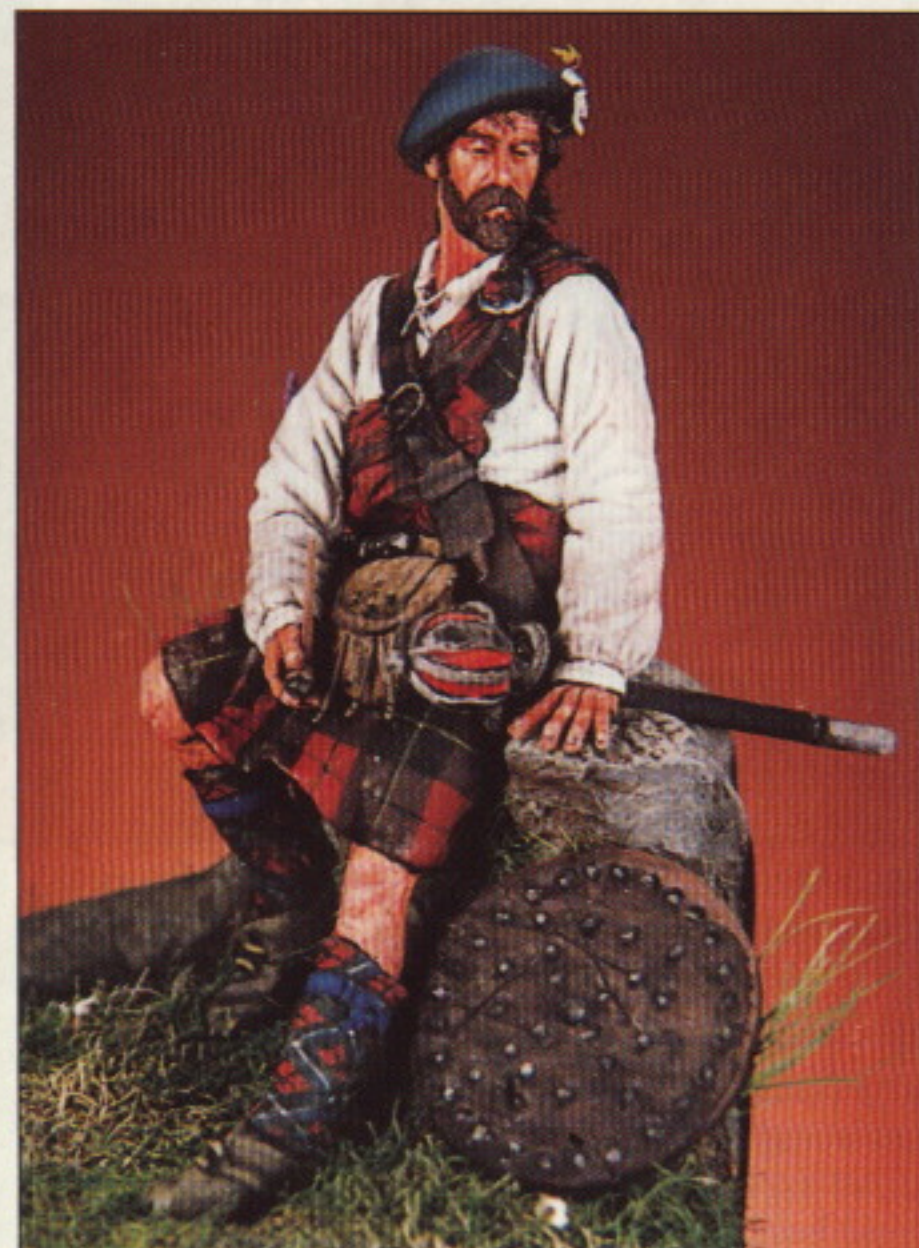
High quality displays

Another excellent display was Jésus Gammara's. If this had not been his first Chicago Show, he would definitely have been considered in the Chicago Medal discussion.

His 'Spanish officer, from Muhlberg, 1642' was one of the most talked about figures in the show. Its gold and silver, embossed armour was a real showcase for his amazing painting skills. His intricately painted 'Samurai' was another fine example of his detail painting.



ABOVE: Marston Moor, 1644 by Doug Cohen-54mm conversion. BELOW: Highland Clansman by Jordi Escarre-54mm original.



Mike Blank was another outstanding exhibitor who displayed both original and stock figures, all painted to the highest level. I particularly liked his Andrea 'Norman Knight' and his original 120mm 'Teutonic Knight,' soon to be a Warriors' kit. Jésus and Mike received gold medals in both the 'Open' and "Painters' Divisions".

Two other miniaturists who received gold medals in both divisions were Rick Rutter and



ABOVE: Victory Coat by Keith Engledow-80mm conversion. BELOW: Highlander by Juan Avila-54mm original.



Emmanuel Valerio. Rick is an excellent painter who is not as well-known as other painters, due to his limited output. However, his pieces are always worth the wait. His 'Sgt. Gutt' was a superb characterisation of a WWII Marine sergeant and one of the 'ugliest' figures that I have ever seen. Emmanuel Valerio is a talented sculptor who burst upon the scene only two years ago. His large scale 'Defender of Kyushu' was a recent Best of Show winner at



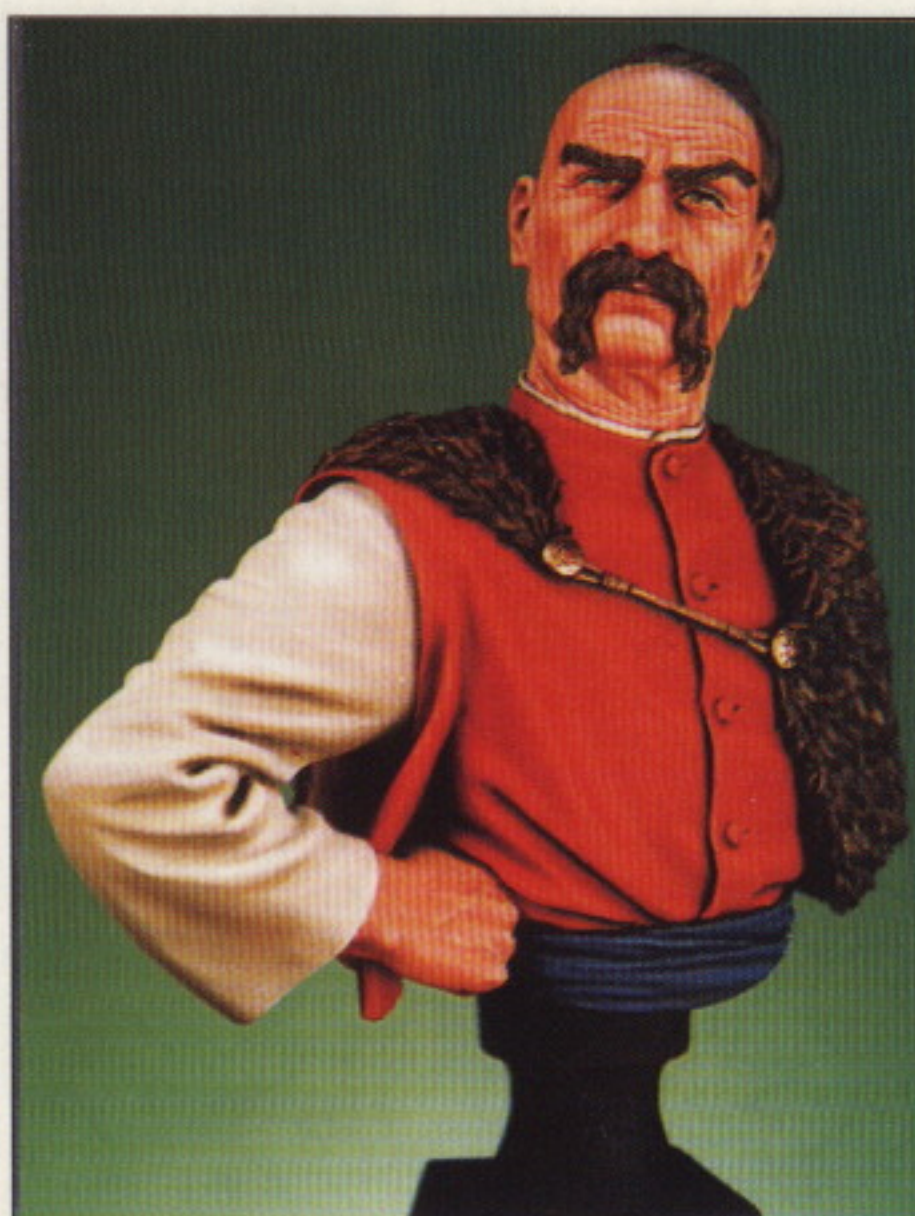
ABOVE: Officer, Grenadier Guards, 1899 by Jim Holt-80mm original. BELOW: Columbus by Mike Blank-54mm stock Beneito.



the SCHAMMS show. Photos do not adequately show its fine details, especially some of the iridescent effects on the clothing. Emmanuel's other entry was titled 'The Last Arrow,' and depicted a Crow Indian on a galloping horse. My only wish is that Emmanuel decides to do a commercial Samurai kit in the near future.

Brits drop in

Adrian Bay, Stan Cheffey and Jon Cheeseman made the long trip over the pond to attend the show. Stan had been over before, but it was the first time for Adrian and Jon. Stan had a very nice conversion of Mike Blank's 'Hornblower of Uri,' which received a Gold Medal. Adrian was awarded a gold medal for his 'Robert the Bruce' vignette, but my favourite was his 'White Knight.' This is one of the best single figures that I have ever seen. The painting and animation of this figure are flawless and I am glad that I finally got to see it 'in the flesh.'

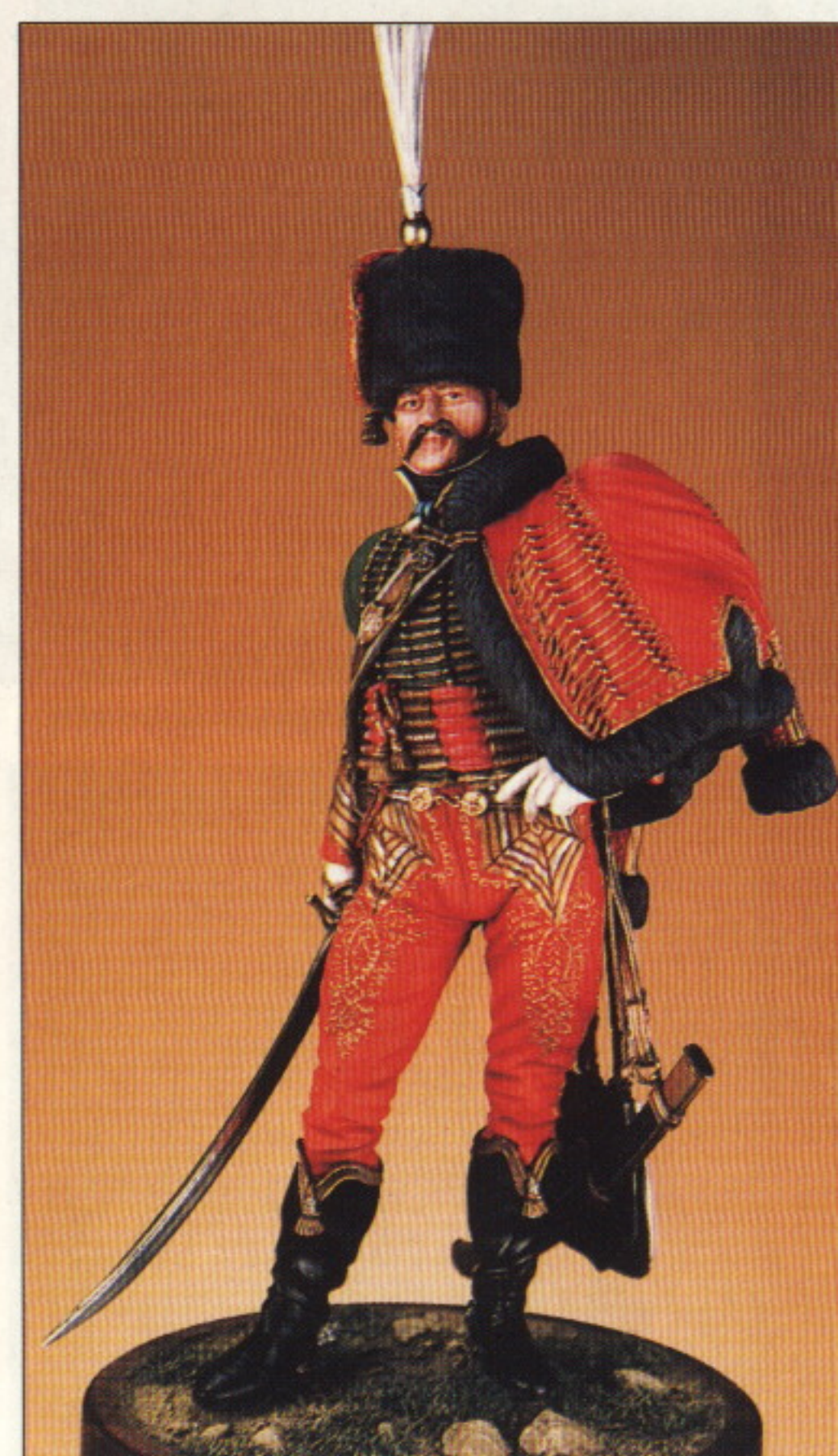


ABOVE: Zaporozhian Cossack by Mike Good-150mm original. BELOW: Hussar by Vern Minkwitz-90mm stock flat Quadri Concept.



1st Sergeant, Washington Artillery by James Rice-120mm original.

ABOVE: Charles Manhes by Tom Holtz-90mm stock Pegaso. BELOW: Samurai by Jésus Gamarra-90mm stock White.



Neapolitan Hussar Officer by Andrei Koribanics-90mm stock Pegaso.

Jon displayed several of his Poste Militaire Indian busts as well as his version of their 'Ashigaru'. What made his 'Blood Warrior' bust special was his realistic treatment of the quillwork and beadwork.

'Chicago rookies'

James Rice and David Hoffman were two more Chicago rookies who took home gold medals. David is an excellent painter of

mainly stock figures, especially mounted subjects. His Pegaso 'Mounted Condottieri' was a superb rendition as was his 'Peter the Great' from the same company. James Rice's name is one that should become increasingly familiar throughout the figure community. His display included several original sculptures as well as some heavily converted stock kits. I really enjoyed seeing his original 'Sergeant Washington Artillery' and his heavily converted Michael Roberts' 'Voltigeur.' The Voltigeur was depicted with a captured Prussian Regimental Standard.

Several large scale figures, in excess of 200mm, were all Gold Medal winners. These included Oscar Nilson's 'Mr. Thompson,'



ABOVE LEFT: Kettledrummer by Greg Difranco-90 stock flat Quadri Concept. ABOVE RIGHT: Viking Berserker by Bob Bethea-200mm Warriors conversion.



ABOVE: The Last Arrow by Emmanuel Valerio-120mm original.

Mike Bedard's 'Lauren Bacall,' Steven Venter's 'Angelina' and Jim Johnston's 'Moonsinger.' Mike Good also displayed his original large scale bust of 'Nosferatu.' It seems that more miniaturists are discovering some of the beautifully sculpted and cast 'Garage Kits,' as they are known in the US.

There were several single figures which caught my attention. Greg Difranco displayed a beautiful mounted 'Polish Lancer Kettledrummer' flat. This flat was so well painted that it looked like a round figure through the camera lens. Jim Holt's 'Officer, Grenadier Guards' was a subtle blend of excellent sculpting and painting. 'Blowing the Bridge' was a very original and well conceived diorama by Chris Mrosko. Tom Holtz displayed a very colourful variation of Metal

Modeles' 90mm Hussar officer. It depicted Marshal Murat's ADC, Captain Manhes, in a white pelisse with amaranth facings. Ken Sullivan is a name to watch for at future exhibits. His 'Robe Signal,' inspired by a Frank McCarthy painting was very well sculpted. I still have not figured out how he did the robe.

Long standing members

Some long standing members of the hobby held up well against some of the 'young upstarts.' John Canning displayed some of his best work in years. A wide variety of subjects were included in Mike Hall's display. Bob Bethea had a very original 'Viking Berserker' bust which was based on the Warriors' Celtic Vampire bust. It was good to see Ron Wehrman back in Chicago after a long hiatus. Bob Knee had a large and varied display which included his mounted vignette of Napoleon and Marshal Davout. Leon Kestenbaum, a long time enthusiast, had a nice display which included his Buffalo Soldier.

One vote in it!

The voting for this year's Best of Show was the closest in the history of the Chicago Show. A single vote separated the winner and the runner-up. Emmanuel Valerio's 'Defender of Kyushu' was the runner-up. The Best of Show was Raül Garcia Latorre's 'Chillianwallah Drummer Boy.' This excellent 54mm original figure caught the judges' and exhibitors' eyes.

It will be hard to top this year's Chicago Show. However, I have a feeling that the World Expo in Toronto, just may do it. I'll see you there!



Carabinier, Light Infantry by Bob Knee-120mm stock Michael Roberts.

Toshiichi Matsuoka provides painting references for the 54mm Metal Modeles kit

When I began to assemble and paint the Serbian Infantryman 1915 released by Metal Modeles I couldn't find any reference material for painting this figure and had to refer to the colour guide included in the kit. If anyone has more detailed information on Serbian uniforms of WWI would they please contact me via the editor.

I primed the assembled figure with Soft 99 Purasahu which is a Japanese made car body repair spray and undercoated it with Humbrol enamel paint. I painted the figure with Winsor & Newton artists' oil colours, Matsuda Sepia oil colour and silver printer's ink.

I painted the figure in stages using the following paint mixes.

Stage 1. Face and Hands.

Undercoat: Humbrol 61 Flesh.

Base: Shadow + Titanium White.

Shadow: Cadmium Red + Cadmium Orange + Burnt Sienna + dab of Burnt Umber.

Deep shadow: Burnt Umber + Cadmium Red Deep + dab of Sepia.

Highlight: Base + Titanium White.

Light highlight: Titanium white + dab of Cadmium Yellow.

Stage 2. Hair, moustache and eyebrows.

Base: Burnt Umber.

Shadow: Sepia.

Highlight: Mars Brown + Mars Yellow.

Light highlight: highlight + Titanium White.

Stage 3. Eyes.

Base: Titanium White + dab of Lamp Black.

Iris: Lamp Black + dab of Titanium White and Titanium White on centre.

Stage 4. Lips.

Base: Cadmium Red + Titanium White.

Highlight: Base + Titanium White.

Stage 5. Scarf.

Undercoat: Humbrol 33 Black.

Base and shadow: Lamp Black.

Highlight: Base + Titanium White.

Stage 6. Cap, jacket and trousers.

Undercoat: Humbrol 34 White.

Base: Shadow + Titanium White.

Shadow: Indigo + Mars Yellow + Burnt Umber + Lamp Black.

Deep Shadow: Lamp Black + Shadow.

Highlight: Base + Titanium White + dab of Lamp Black.

Light highlight: Titanium White + Highlight.

Stage 7. Collar badges.

Undercoat: Humbrol 34 White.

Base: Bright Red.

Highlight: Base + Titanium White.

Stage 8. Socks.

Undercoat: Humbrol 34 White.

Base: Lamp Black.



Highlight: Base + Titanium White.
Triangle pattern: Cadmium Red and Titanium White on centre.

Stage 9. Shoes.

The upper part.

Undercoat: Humbrol 180 Red Leather.

Base: Sepia.

Shadow: Lamp Black.

Highlight: Base + Mars Brown.

(2) The lower part.

Undercoat: Humbrol 62 Leather.

Base: Mars Brown + Mars Yellow

Highlight: Base + Titanium White.

(3) Shoestrings

Base: Titanium White + Gold Ochre.

Stage 10 Belts, pouches, shoulder belt, rifle sling and blanket string.

Undercoat: Humbrol 180 Red Leather.



Base: Burnt Sienna.
Shadow: Burnt Umber.
Deep shadow: Burnt Umber + Lamp Black.
Highlight: Base + Mars Yellow.
Light Highlight: Mars Yellow + Titanium White.

Stage 11. Shoulder bag.

Undercoat: Humbrol 34 White.

Base: Gold Ochre + Burnt Umber + Titanium White.

Shadow: Base + Burnt Umber.

Deep Shadow: Sepia

Highlight: Base + Titanium White.

Light Highlight: Titanium White + dab of Gold Ochre.

Stage 12 Blanket.

Undercoat: Humbrol 34 White Base:

Titanium White + Lamp Black + dab of

Serbian Infantryman 1915

Cadmium Red Deep.
 Shadow: Base + Lamp Black.
 Highlight: Base + Titanium White +
 Cadmium Red.
 Light Highlight: Highlight + Titanium White.

Stage 13. Buckles and Buttons.

Undercoat: Lamp Black.
 Base: Silver + dab of Lamp Black.
 Shadow: Base + Lamp Black.
 Highlight: Silver.

Stage 14. Pipe.

Undercoat: Humbrol 33 Black.
 Base: Burnt Umber.
 Shadow: Lamp Black.
 Highlight: Base + Mars Brown. Silver bands.

Stage 15 Rifle.

Metal parts.

Undercoat: Humbrol 33 Black.
 Base: Lamp Black + dab of Silver.
 Shadow: Lamp Black.
 Highlight: Silver + dab of Lamp Black.

Wooden parts.

Undercoat: Humbrol 62 Leather.
 Base: Burnt Sienna + Brown Madder
 Alizarin.
 Shadow and wood grain: Brown Madder
 Alizarin.
 Deep shadow: Shadow + Lamp Black.
 Highlight: Base + Mars Yellow.

Availability

The Metal Modeles kit of the Serbian
 Infantryman costs £11.75 plus 30p postage
 from Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157
 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ. ■



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MILITARY VEHICLES



SHQ's 1:76 scale Polish TKS and trailer.

There seems to be no abatement in the number of new releases across a wide variety of subjects and scales. I am pleased, as ever, to bring you news about a producer new to this column, from Australia, but more on this in a moment. The railway theme still appears to be there and set to continue for a bit yet, that is coupled with a current trend in the prices of plastic kits which still seem to be coming down and that makes a pleasant change in a world where everything usually seems to be going up!

Readers will be aware that I try to keep an eye open for new manufacturers around the world many of whom contact us. I hear of some and try to contact them, but get no response and, indeed, some importers don't keep in touch with what is going on. A pity, which makes me wonder what kind of effort they are putting into promoting their products. I'm sorry we don't bring news of all ranges. Perhaps there is a tendency to keep fairly 'national' in some places and, despite the international nature of the hobby, there are still apparent differences between the mainstreams of the hobby between Europe, America and the Far East, each having its own preferences and idiosyncrasies.

Recently I've had the chance to catch up on some kit assemblies on a number of subjects in different scales and to at least get them to the undercoat stage. Amongst these are the Dragon Models railway Command Car, leaving the Infantry and Artillery cars to follow, along with combining two lengths of their railway track/embankment to display them on. The track will be ideal for displaying some of the other railway cars, such as those from Ironside. As for painting? Well that is likely to drag on far longer.

Some may think me old fashioned, but I still brush paint my

models, only occasionally using a spray can (especially for Halford's grey primer) which is part of my enjoyment. I do have an airbrush, but not a compressor which do not come cheap and I admit to not being able to choose one I would be happy with. You don't really get the opportunity for a 'test drive' before committing what is still a considerable outlay. I'm not quite sure just what my wife Una would have to say about that one! Maybe one day, but in the meantime, I'm happy!

Azimut - Mirage

Azimut have got together with Mirage Hobby to come up with a new combination of their French Renault UE carrier. This time, and marketed under the Azimut banner, they've produced the German version of the UE with the rocket launcher (*nebelwerfer*). There are actually two choices within the kit, as it has alternative parts to fit the launch crates on side panels (*alla-Stuka zu Fuss*) or on a rack across the rear load area. The basic UE kit is provided, along with some extra plastic sprues from Azimut with the *nebelwerfer* rounds and the launch crates and frames. Then there is an etched fret with some replacement parts for areas on the hull such as the two-crew cupola hatch panels, the exhaust guard and the hull front, among other smaller details.

Coupled together this makes a very useful addition to any 1:35 scale collection, not least for taking up little room! Clear instruction diagrams are included, with the original Mirage Hobby set, but with suitable additions for the new parts and shaded diagrams showing the bits to be replaced and it's good to see some co-operation between some of the relatively smaller manufacturers in this way. I didn't find it difficult to assemble,



Royal Air Force bowser - the Bedford QL Refueller in 1:48 scale from Hart Models.

though the plastic is relatively soft, so do take care with your craft knife. The only problem left with is to decide which of the two versions to build (or why not buy two!). Available from Azimut Productions, who are at 171 Rue de Charenton, 75012 Paris France.

Small Scale Armour Models

Small Scale Armour Models are a new company in Australia, producing very good quality polyurethane resin 1:76 scale models. The example I have is of the British AEC Mk III armoured car. A large, and very 'boxy' vehicle, this is a simple enough kit with its main hull very cleanly moulded with nice sharp edges to the dark grey resin. There are some more interesting items on Small Scale Armour Models' list and if they are as good as the AEC armoured car then this range is a welcome addition to those produced by manufacturers in this scale. There isn't a whole lot more to say about it, other than pointing out that it's well worth checking out Small Scale Armour Models at PO Box 1031, Blackburn North, Victoria, 3130 Australia.

MiniArt Studios

MiniArt Studios have released a full kit of the Italian CV33 'tankette'. Other than being in a small box, the kit inside is 'small' - but perfectly formed! It's complete with a clear assembly instruction sheet, and some beautifully moulded polyurethane resin parts. There are no less than three hull tops, including one Hungarian, providing a choice of different types from the one kit. I found the construction pretty straightforward with interior detail and an engine block all included. The hatches can be left open if you want to include it in a diorama or add a crew, and there is room for the extra details to be added to the engine compartment.

The running gear went together particularly well although the track sections required a bit of

'warming' required to get them to bend neatly around both the drive sprockets and idler wheels. It is important that you paint the interior sections as you progress through the construction stages. As a purely personal preference I like to sub-assemble the parts as far as I can before painting and a final assembly and finishing stage. This is a very good model kit and well thought out. It is available from Mini Art Studios at PO Box 88215, Shamshuipo Post Office, Shamshuipo, Kowloon, Hong Kong, or via Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ here in the UK.

Trux

I understand Trux have had a very busy time in recent months and they are having fun just trying to keep pace with orders for new kits. Among recent additions to their range are two more variants of the CMP 8cwt Heavy Utility; an ambulance and FFR (Fitted For Radio). They are neat castings, with the body in one piece with the exception of the roof. Put in the appropriate interior detail supplied in each kit, add some clear plastic 'glazing' and pop the roof on top. Relatively simple kits, but good to see the instruction sheets included now as standard which are a great improvement over their early kits.

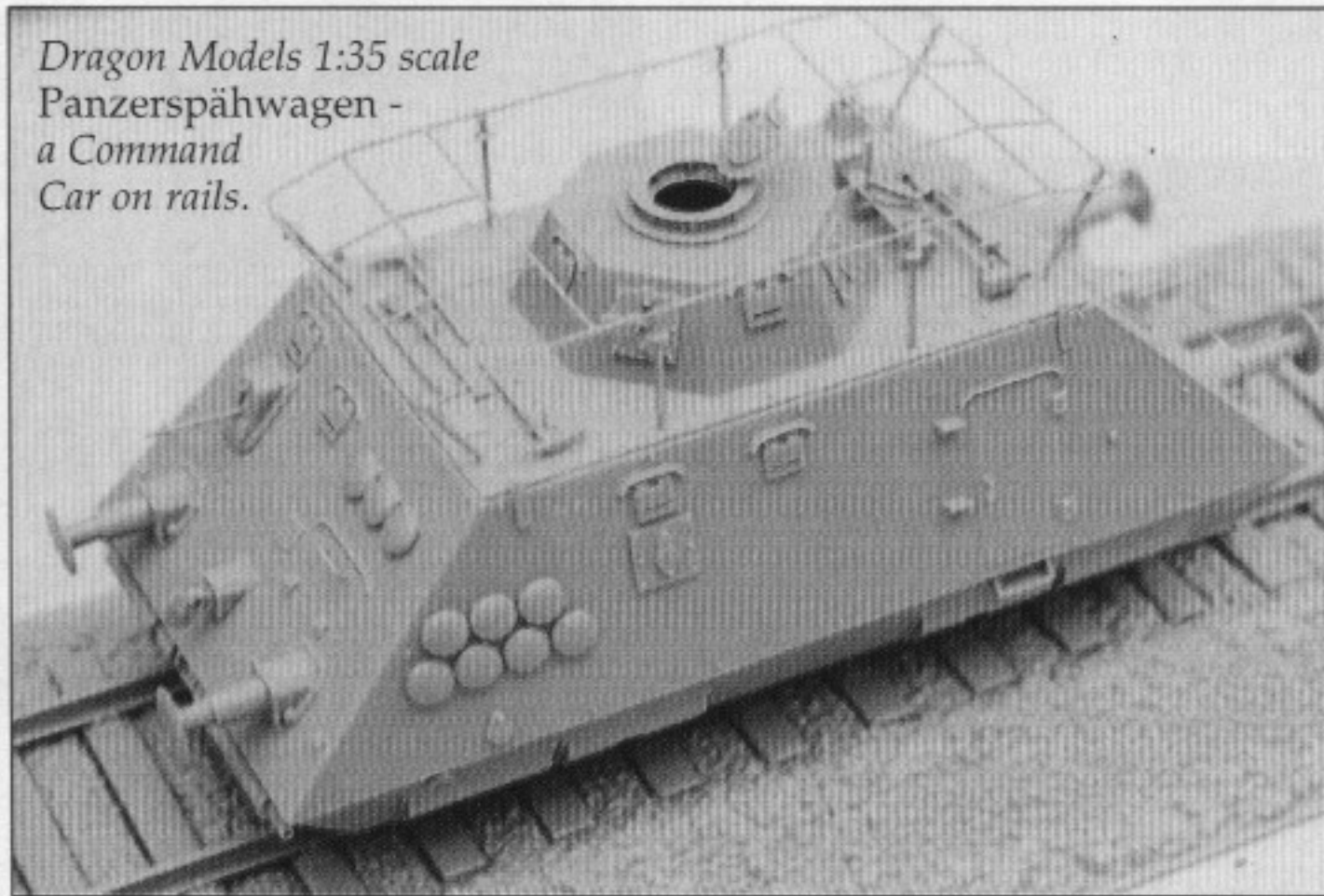
Trux also stock some of the 1:76 scale resin kits in the French Exokit range. One in particular is an American bridging set, packed in two plastic containers, each set has two large pneumatic rafts plus the appropriate decking. The rafts are quite large, even in this scale, but once assembled this set is quite impressive. I'm pleased to see this, as we have recently seen some German bridging equipment included in the SHQ range and it makes a change to see something American too.

Another Exokit has some US assault boats complete with outboard motors which have arrived at about the same time as some of Geoff Lacey's fine and value for money scale draw-

SdKfz 10 with 5cm Pak in 1:72 scale from Al.By.



Dragon Models 1:35 scale Panzerspähwagen - a Command Car on rails.



ings covering just such US assault boats and their trailers. You might want to try your hand at some of the other boats and rig up a trailer to put them on. Contact Trux at 156 High Street, Yeadon, Leeds LS19 7AB. For the drawings, contact Geoff Lacey at 315A South Lane, New Malden, Surrey KT3 5RR.

SHQ

SHQ have added two *PzKpfw I Ausf B* variants to their range of 1:76 scale metal models. One is the basic *PzKpfw I Ausf B* tank and the second is the *Bison* self-propelled mount with the high side plates and the complete *SiG 33* with wheeled carriage mounted on top of the turretless hull. Both are relatively simple to assemble with just basic cleaning up on the metal castings. As ever a small and adequate assembly instruction sheet is provided. One of the nice things about metal models I reckon is the rather satisfying weight there is to the finished item. SHQ are at 34 Copland Close, Basingstoke, Hants., RG22 4JX.

Gramodels

Gramodels continue to add gradually to their range of 1:150 scale models, which are compatible with N-gauge railways. Among recent items are some little Bedfords with both water tanker and 15cwt GS bodies that fit the same chassis. These are simple little models comprising a chassis, cab and body. There are plans for continued releases in the range, including such items as the Hors, Harden and gliders. As well as wargaming there are some interesting diorama possibilities as well. Gramodels are at 73 Castleton Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 7QE.

CMSC

A steady rate of new 1:76 scale kits have been released over the last year by Continental Model Supply Company. Among the recent additions is a very nice British A10 cruiser tank. This is, conveniently, another early war

subject and one which has been done very neatly indeed. The kit is a mix of resin and metal castings, but I especially like the lengths of metal track, which can be laid around the running gear without any difficulty. The quality of both resin and metal castings is to the usual high standards which CMSC have set for themselves and an exploded assembly diagram is supplied in the box. These kits have quickly developed into a popular range and I suspect this latest one will prove to be very popular too. CMSC are at 36 Gray Gardens, Rainham, Essex RM13 7NH.

Airwaves

Airwaves have added another pair of vehicle conversion sets to their range for the Tamiya *SdKfz 250*. These are for either the early or late versions of the ammunition carrier and they differ mainly in the style of the interior racking. I have the early version which has two good sized frets of etched brass and a small bag of metal cast parts. The etched frets are high quality and include a new floor plate for the hull interior, complete with diamond pattern non-slip sections, the ammo racks plus some smaller details. There are four pages of exploded assembly diagrams which are well done and shouldn't give any problems for beginners. Airwaves continue to produce good quality products at a reasonable price and the range is available from E.D. Models, 64 Stratford Road, Solihull, West Midlands B90 3LP.

Dragon Models Ltd

Dragon have added the third version of their 1:35 scale *Panzerspähwagen* kit, the artillery car. This has the same hull as both the Infantry and Command variants, but mounts a *PzKpfw III* turret on top. Self-propelled, these armoured rail cars could work singly or in 'train'. These injection moulded kits are designed so you have to remove plastic from the relevant parts for each version. Do take care checking this as there

could be nothing worse than opening up the wrong section on the wrong side! All three of these kits, and that includes the Gunze Sangyo version of the Infantry car, have sections of rail which can be linked together if you wish by leaving off the end panel and joining the sections from each kit.

I feel a bit sorry for Azimut, who had released these same three vehicles as one of their limited run injection moulded Ironside kits. Now we have these three from Dragon, I suspect they will prove very popular. With all the *PzKpfw III* variants in Dragon's range it can't have been too difficult to simply include the turret sprue with the basic hull. This is rather a contrast to years ago when we expected a manufacturer to release just one version of something although they had the hull and running gear they didn't often follow through with any alternatives on that particular chassis. Now, of course, we see the exact opposite as Dragon get everything they can from the mouldings. Good stuff! It should be available in the shops by the time you read this.

Al. By

Al.By have a particularly interesting 1:72 scale model in their product range. A so-called 'combi-kit' this combines a full Esci kit of the *PzKpfw IV* with Al.By's own resin parts for a *Wirbelwind* turret. Very impressive were the four tiny turned brass gun barrels for the gun which are quite superb. The quality of the resin casting is about as good as it gets and clear instructions are provided, based around the Esci originals. A marvellous bit of co-operation between these two manufacturers, and one I think to applaud (as per Al.By. and Dragon). Al.By Models are available from BP 34-82400, Valence D'Agen, France.

Raventhorne Miniatures

Raventhorne Miniatures have been absent from the column for some time, but I am pleased to bring news of two of their recent releases. Both are 1:76

scale metal models mainly at the wargaming market. However, both are unusual subjects, go well together and look good. All-in-all a good combination with one for a German conversion on the French half-track, the *SPW P107* and, in this case, the basic APC which had a German armoured body on a French chassis. It is a relatively simple kit and the 10 parts are cleanly cast and neatly detailed.

The other model is an even more unusual item, the Rumanian Tacam T-60 self-propelled gun. Simple again, just eight good crisply cast parts, including a one-piece main hull, with only basic cleaning up to do. No assembly instructions are provided so a couple of photos are needed to help with the T60. Still, I have to say these two were a pleasant surprise when they arrived from Raventhorne Miniatures who are at 2 Bygot Lane, Cherry Burton, Beverley, North Humberside HU17 7RN.

Book catalogues

I have had two specialist book catalogues sent from both Barbarossa Books and the Military History Book Shop. An interesting combination as while Barbarossa Books are still relatively a 'young' business, the Military History Bookshop has been around for a few years. Previously located in North London I used to call in the Military History Bookshop regularly some 10-15 years ago when I worked close by. The long lists of books, both new and second hand, are well worth looking through as there are often some very interesting 'finds' in there.

Barbarossa Books have a couple of added extras in that they deal with back issues of *Tankette* for MAFVA and stock a few resin models as well. Check out these catalogues. Barbarossa Books, West Beynon House, 242 High Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1PQ. The Military History Book Shop are now at (Lower Ground), 77-81 Bell Street, London NW1 6TA. ■

SOLDIER BOX

TOY SOLDIERS

For collectors of toy soldiers with Stuart Asquith



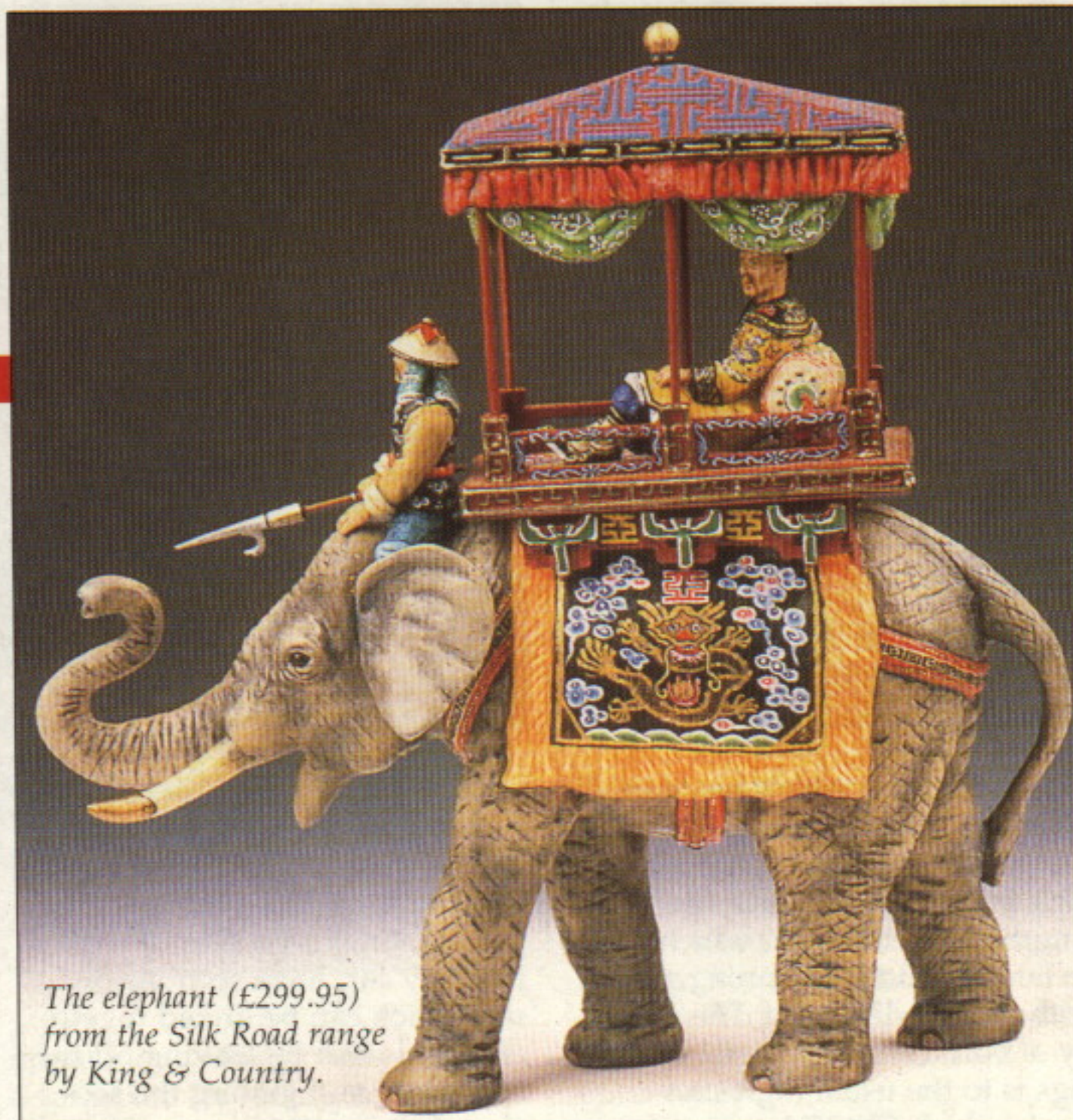
A merchant with pack mule (£44.95) from the Silk Road range by King & Country.

The British Toy Soldier & Figure Show

The 1998 dates for The British Toy Soldier & Figure Show are 21st March, 27th June and 5th December. The venue is The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way (off Russell Square) London.

The Silk Road

King & Country UK (20 Rockingham Way, Portchester, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 8QS. Tel: 01329 233141) have started a new range in their connoisseur series. Entitled The Silk Road, this new range reflects the fact that for centuries trade flourished along this caravan route which ran from China across central Asia and into Europe and presents studies of some the people who used and defended the road. Further examples from this range include an elephant (SR1



The elephant (£299.95) from the Silk Road range by King & Country.



'Hookey Leads Them Out' a Zulu War group from Trophy Miniatures Wales Ltd.

£299.95), two silk porters (SR5 £54.95) and a merchant with pack mule (SR6 £44.95).

'Hookey Leads Them Out'

Trophy Miniatures Wales Ltd (Unit 4, Vale Enterprise Centre, Hayes Road, Sully, Penarth, South Glamorgan CF64 5SY. Tel: 01446 721011) have added another set of figures to their Zulu War range. Entitled

'Hookey Leads Them Out' this six-figure set features Private Hook assisting Private Connolly,

Surgeon Reynolds, Private John Williams, Assistant Commissariat Officer James Dalton and Private Fredrick Hitch.

AWI Infantry

Call to Arms have added a box (Series 10) of AWI American Maryland infantry to their range of 1:32 scale plastic figures. As is customary there are four different poses and four figures in each pose, providing 16 for £4.50. Although the box describes the figures as 'Maryland', there is nothing to prevent them being painted as



Castings of Britain's Turkish lancer and an officer of The Royal Company of Archers by Soldier Pac, painted here by Stuart Asquith.

the troops of virtually any American state. Two of the figures are in hunting shirts, the third is kitted out along the lines of a light infantryman and the final figure is a man advancing in a tricorne with levelled musket. These latter two paint up well enough as British troops which, coupled with the previously released British Grenadier box, offers the makings of matching British units. The Model Shop Harrow (190-194 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1JU. Tel: 0181-863 9788) provided the sample and stock the full Call to Arms range, in addition to offering a reliable mail order service.

Soldier Pac

Soldier Pac (2 Holland Drive, Muxton, Telford, Shropshire TF2 8RA. Tel: 01952 676822) is licensed to Britain's Petite Ltd and reproduces recast (from originals) William Britain figures and spares produced between 1893-1969. The latest sample castings feature an officer of The Royal Company of Archers or of The Yeoman of the Guard (F145 £1.50). The Turkish lancer in the photograph was assembled using a headless and 'right arm-less' figure on a trotting horse (M6), a 'fez' head (43) and a lance arm - total price in castings £4.

Papua New Guinea Constabulary

Lancer (Forest View, Holt Pound, Farnham, Surrey GU10 4JZ Tel: 01420 22354) have added three figures from the Papua New Guinea Constabulary contingent to their 1953 Coronation Parade series. These are an officer (Ref COR/PP1), sergeant



Plastic AWI American Maryland infantry by Call to Arms, painted for this photograph by Stuart Asquith.



C.P. Soldiers make this boxed set of US Army WWII infantry of the 29th Division.



Seabea Miniatures (26 Leicester Way, Leegomery, Telford, Shropshire TF1 4UT. Tel: 01952 260395) offer a range of traditional toy soldiers which includes this fife of the 35th Royal Sussex Regiment 1864.

(COR/PP2) and constable (COR/PP3). The Coronation series also features figures for the Australian, New Zealand, Pakistan, Canadian and King's



Papua New Guinea Constabulary by Lancer.



Plastic American Civil War infantry by Marksmen.

African Rifles contingents. The figures are available painted at £6.20 each, or as unpainted castings at £3.20. UK postage and packing is 10%, minimum £1.

ACW Infantry

Marksmen (7 Goldsmith Avenue, London W3 6HR. Tel: 0181-992 0132) stock a number of ranges of plastic figures. Amongst these are a series of American Civil War infantry which retail at £1.99 for a painted figure. There are six poses available, which can be supplied painted as either Union or Confederate troops. The full set of 12 is also available unpainted for £4.50.

American GIs

C P Soldiers (63 Risingholme Road, Harrow Weald, Middlesex HA3 7EP) have added a boxed set of American infantry of the US Army 29th Division in Europe to their expanding WWII range. The six figure set all wear the 29th Infantry Division shoulder patch consists of an officer with an M1 carbine, an NCO with a Thompson sub-machine gun and four privates, two each of two different advancing poses with M1 Garand rifles. Available only as a boxed and painted item, the set of six figures costs £40 plus 10% postage and packing.



Two silk porters (£54.95) from the Silk Road range by King & Country.

OBSERVATION POST

NEWS FOR WARGAMERS
BY STUART ASQUITH

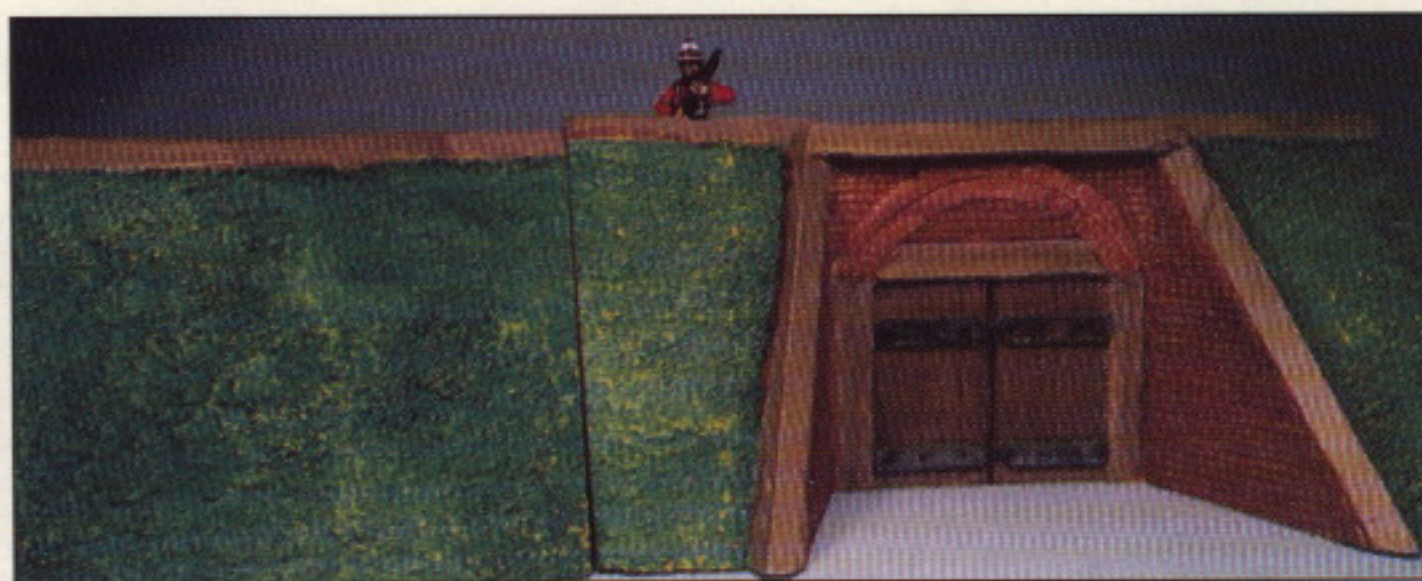


ABOVE: A dismounted knight by Qualiticast painted by Gerard Cronin of GJM Figurines Painting Service. BELOW: Ancient Persians from Newline Designs.



Old Glory Napoleonic

Old Glory Corporation (Institute House, Sycamore Terrace, New Kyo, Stanley, County Durham DH9 7TJ) have sent in two packs of figures (Falling Wounded and Elite Company Defending) from their new 25mm French Napoleonic range. The range now contains over 200 different packs with troops for Austria, Britain, France, Prussia and Russia. As usual all the packs contain variant figures and Old Glory estimate that including variants there is something like 20,000 different castings in the 25mm Napoleonic range. The Napoleonic range is offered to the customer at a special price of £12.50 for a standard bag (normal price £15) for the remainder of 1997.



Albion Armouries sections for a 15mm Napoleonic fort.



ABOVE: Australian Light Horse designed by Mike Broadbent of Ozmade Figurines and available from The Light Horseman. BELOW: Old Glory 25mm French infantry.



GJM Figurines Painting Service

A dismounted knight by Qualiticast painted to a high standard by Gerard Cronin of GJM Figurines Painting Service, 74 Crofton Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 8HY. Tel: 01689 828474 (24-hour answerphone) or 0410 114829 (mobile).

Napoleonic Fort

Albion Armouries (69 North Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 1YD. Tel: 01273 380006) have added sections for a 15mm Napoleonic fort to their range of resin cast fortifications. The items sent in to review were pleasing to handle, well detailed and easy to paint, assembling into an attractive defence work.

Beersheba

The Light Horseman (PO Box 107, Macarthur Square, New South Wales 2560 Australia) are a new company offering the Beersheba range of 25mm figures for games set in the desert during WWI. Designed by Mike Broadbent of Ozmade Figurines, the range so far features the Australian Light

Horse and Turkish forces.

The Australians are represented by eight figures on foot, including a two-man Lewis gun team and five actively posed mounted figures with separate horses. The Turks consist of eight infantry figures, including three officers, a machine-gun with two crew and a 75mm Krupp howitzer with a crew of four. Also available are packs of large and small palm trees, along with Beersheba: Wargaming Rules for Sinai and Palestine during WWI. The detail on the figures is quite good and it nice to see a different period being tackled. There is no UK agent as yet, so the figures have to come direct from Australia. Prices in Australian dollars are as follows: foot figure or rider A\$1.45; horse A\$2.10; machine-gun and two crew A\$4.35; artillery and four crew A\$8.70; palm trees A\$9.95; rules A\$19.95. Postage and packing are 20% sea mail, 40% air mail.

Tunnel Rats

Mike Smith (Todd Close, Curthwaite, Wigton, Cumbria CA7 8BE. Tel: 01228 711388) has introduced a new domino like 'tunnel rat' Viet Nam game entitled The Tunnels of Cu Chi. This



ABOVE: French 25mm line infantry, artillery and Imperial Guard from Battle Honours.

is essentially a game of tunnel warfare for two players, with a solo option. The objective of the American 'tunnel rat' player is to capture chambers in which Viet Cong supply units are held. The game includes six tunnel playing pieces in resin, four 20mm metal crawling figures - American and Viet Cong tunnel rats moving/firing plus a casualty for each side - an average dice, 'supplies' cast in white metal and a set of rules. The basic set costs £9, with a painted and boxed version also being available for £20.

Ancient Persians

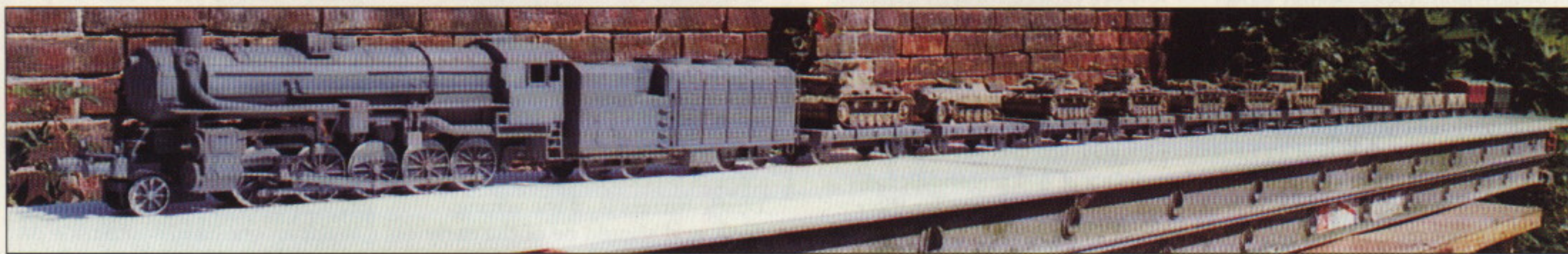
Newline Designs (6 Ardley Close, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 7PL. Tel: 01895 621706) offer a range of 20mm Persians in their Ancients series. There are command figures, Immortals in palace dress and campaign dress, spear armed infantry including shield bearers and Kardaka hoplites, slingers, archers, cavalry and a scythed chariot. These nicely detailed figures are supplied as four foot figures or riders (£1), or two horses (£1) or a chariot plus horses (£2.20) to a pack and come with separate shields where applicable. Postage and packing is 10% UK, 20% Europe, 30% elsewhere.

Battle Honours

Following on from their 25mm Austrians in campaign and full dress, Battle Honours (Kitney and Company, 1215 Crystal Business Centre, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9QX. Tel: 01304 611968) tell me that Austrian limbers and a caisson are due and Hungarian infantry are also in the pipeline. The latest additions to the range, however, are French line infantry, artillery and Imperial Guard.

The line infantry includes light infantrymen in either covered shako or kepi - so they can be used a line or guard - and the Guard features grenadiers in bearskin, plus voltigeurs in either covered shako or kepi. There will also be zouaves in turban, fez or kepi which will double as Papal forces of 1861 or 1870 and they are also suitable for the ACW. The infantry are sold in packs of four infantry castings in a random selection of pose variants for £2.50 per pack, plus 10% UK postage and packing.

READERS' LETTERS



Military railway traffic

Dear Sir,
I've just bought the latest Mil Mod and looking through the latest releases, I saw the various railway related stuff. You asked (or wondered) if there would be a full steam train or armoured train released. Well I enclose three photos that may be of interest.

The first two show a scratch built German 2-10-0 loco and tender with nine flatbeds and three sided trucks, all these are to 1:35 scale. The two coaches are 0 gauge with new chassis, also to 1:35. The other photo shows an unfinished armoured train, also scratch built to 1:35. This consists of nine cars only because of space, and were both built for a customer.

I hope you find these of interest and keep up the fine magazine. Oh, and by the way, no planes please!

Dave Tootill.

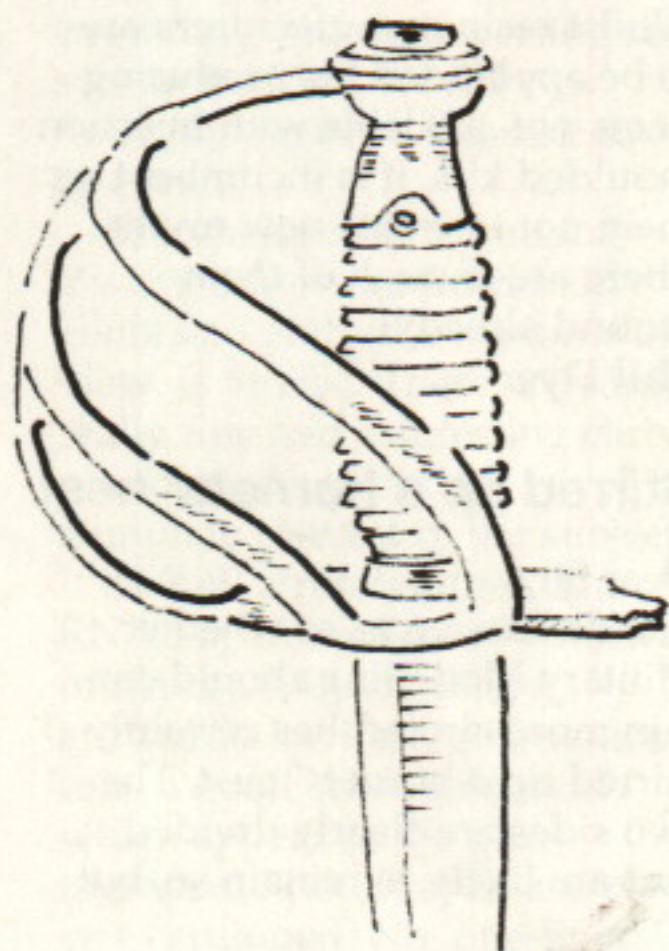
Dutch Belgian Karabiniers

Dear Sir,
I was very pleased with the announcement of an article on Dutch/Belgian Karabiniers at Waterloo in issue No.14, and I visited my bookstore every other day to get my hands on the No.15 issue. Finally! Some Dutch Napoleonic uniforms!

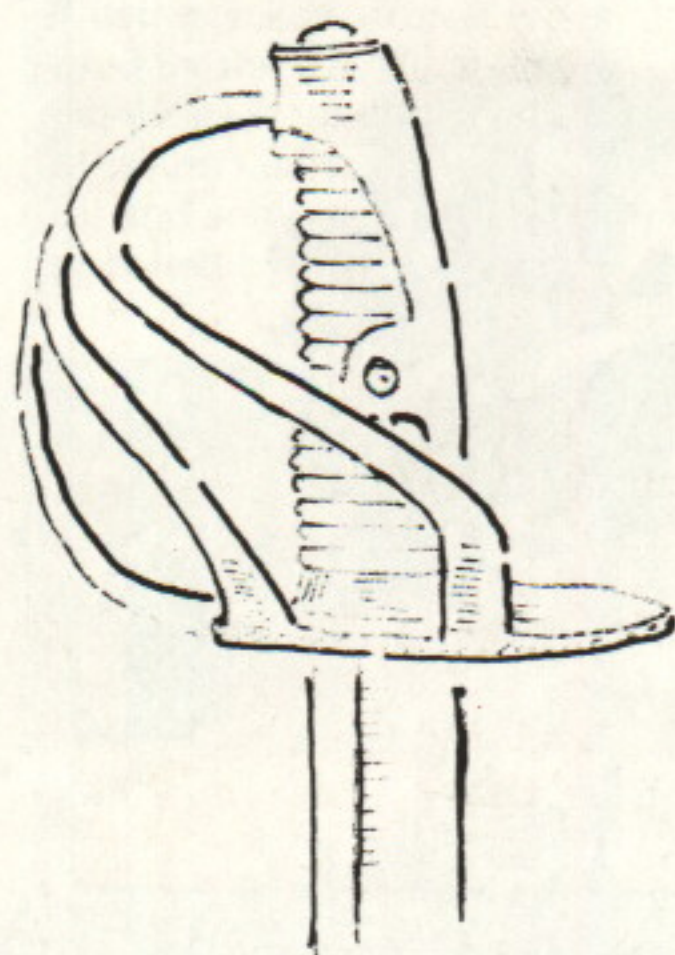
In general, I am not the person to write on every small mistake I read, but to prevent many of you building incorrect Dutch heavy cavalry, in this case I just had to.

The writer of the feature had no doubt gone through a lot of effort to assemble all the facts, there are hardly any contemporary pictures and regulations are complicated and not all that complete. Dr. Schmit is in good company, even the otherwise excellent and reliable Men-at-Arms series, has at least one issue (No.98) full of mistakes.

To begin with a general remark, (I won't say a word about the year '815' in the title!) Dr. Adrian Schmit has only mentioned the eight regiments which



No 1 1813



No 2 1813

were numbered; he has not mentioned the regiment 'Karabiniers Landmilitie', nor the 'Korps Guides'. In 1814 it was the intention to raise two regiments of heavy dragoons in both the north and south Netherlands, but the second South Netherlands regiment, raised 31-10-14 did not come to strength and was not mentioned anymore in the order of 21-04-15 renumbering all the cavalry regiments. Instead of this, a conscript regiment was raised on 04-04-15 under the same commander as the disbanded second south Netherlands regiment. It was not

given a number until 1816 when the ninth section (in Dutch afdeling), the same regiment was by order of 26th February, 1816 changed into section, was raised by re-arranging the squadrons of the existing four regiments of heavy cavalry. Next to the regiment mentioned there also was a Corps of Guides of two squadrons.

The 7th regiment of (Dutch) hussars, incidentally, had at the time of Waterloo not yet departed for Dutch East-India, and was in the reserve army.

It is most unlikely that the Dutch Karabiniers wore the new uniform, by the regulations of 9th January, 1815 at the time of Waterloo. One has to bear in mind that there were great shortages on the Continent in these years, like in the years after WWII. In 1814 the term for replacement of a coat in the Dutch services was three years and it was not until 14th September 1815 that this term was shortened on two years. To illustrate these shortages: the third regiment did not receive saddles until March 1815 and the last 200 horses arrived on the 21st of June, less than a month before they went into the Waterloo-campaign. One can, therefore, safely say that the first and third regiment wore the old uniform of the heavy dragoons by the regulations of January and February 1814.

These regulations describe the uniform as: dark blue coat with coloured collar, lapels, cuffs and coat tails, grey breeches, stable jacket and cape, black high boots, black spurs, hat with white plume, white buttons with the number of the regiment. The colours were red-pink for the first regiment and yellow for the third regiment. White leather belts.

Epaulettes are not mentioned. One has to read the regulations for the other regiments to notice that the length of the coat is not mentioned either, as for me other regiments they mention explicit 'short' coat tails, or 'British' coat tails. May we, therefore, presume that the coat tails of the dragoons were of the

long type? We'll never know for certain.

We can be certain that the troopers never carried two shoulder-belts, for the simple reason that they were, different from what one may expect from Karabiniers, not armed with carbines. They were armed with a straight bladed sabre and a single pistol. The first and third regiment carried the Heavy Cavalry Sabre No.1 M-1813, with an iron hilt. This weapon has a typical symmetrical sword-grip. The second regiment and the militia-regiment were provided with the Heavy Cavalry Sabre No.2 M-1813, also with an iron hilt. The trooper's weapon illustrated with the article looks more like the Sabre No.3, which replaced the other two in a later period. Only officers carried sabres with brass or even gilded hilts.

The grey overalls, as depicted with the article, were not issued to any of the regiment until the regulations of 12th December 1815, which dwell at length on the fact that these should be wide enough to be worn over the high boots, therefore I doubt whether they were ever issued before. The short boots mentioned by Dr. Schmit were certainly not issued, other than to the light cavalry. The Dutch/Belgian heavy cavalry must have looked were old fashioned on the hills of Waterloo wearing hats, long tailed coats and breeches tucked within their boots.

In 1814 the trumpeters were temporary provided with swallows nests with white lace and fringes, the trumpeters of the staff were distinguished by silver tinges. The 1815 regulations stipulated that the trumpeters should wear a red coat for the first regiment with dark blue collar and cuffs, ponceau-red coat tails, red epaulettes piped silver with white and silver fringes, for the third regiment with a lemon-yellow collar and cuffs, ponceau-red coat tails, yellow epaulettes piped silver with white and silver fringes. There is nothing mentioned of different colours for the plume and crest. As the

regulations mention explicit a white crest and red plume for the second regiment we may presume that the trumpeters of the first and third wore the helmet of the troop. Although the helmet was not yet issued, I tend to picture the trumpeters in red; any commander could have organised a few feet of red fabric by June 1815.

The 1815 inventory of the Belgian regiment mention a long, dark blue coat with red lapels, coat tails and piping, (cuffs are not mentioned) red epaulettes, silver for the officers, white breeches and high boots. The regulations stipulate that in marching order the red lapels are replaced by dark blue. Possibly there were two sets of lapels provided, although I think Dr. Schmit's theory of turning them inside-out sounds more logical. The trumpeters wore reversed colours although collar, cuffs nor coat tails are simply not mentioned; they were plain blue in later regulations. The uniform in the main illustration, based on de Beaufort's work, therefore, looks to me more like an officer of the second regiment in 1816.

When studying the uniforms of the Karabiniers be careful not to mix up the third regiment with the regiment Landmilitie. Both have yellow as a facing colour. For the Netherlands forces of this period in general, one has to be careful not to use near contemporary pictures because uniforms could change within a year. One even has to be careful in using contemporary pictures; some contemporary painters, J.A. Langendijk for example, are known for their vivid imagination.

If anyone wants more information on stable dress, horses, etc., I am more than willing to provide it. In the mean time I am looking forward to an article on the Dutch light cavalry at Waterloo.

Eric P.M. Heldens

Frans van Mierislaan 14, 1399 GD Muiderberg, The Netherlands

Sherman turrets

Dear Sir,

In Vol.27 No.18 there was mention of two versions of the Sherman 105mm Howitzer turret being sold by Armoured Brigade

Models; this firm presumably thinking that both a low and high bustle version existed. On production this armament was only fitted to high bustle turrets and the low bustle turret is misleading. The pilot M4E5 was fitted with a low bustle turret, but then didn't have a loader's hatch, so it couldn't even be used for this.

The split gun ring hatch provided as a substitute to the vision cupola on early production high bustle turrets is of the wrong type, and should be of the early counterbalanced design. Whilst resin manufacturers are to be applauded for producing items not available with injection moulded kits, it is incumbent on them not to create new myths. There are enough of them around already!

Phil Dyer

Stirred up a hornets' nest

Dear Sir,

The discussion as to whether Military Modelling should contain more aircraft has certainly stirred up a hornets' nest. The two sides are clearly divided and are likely to remain so, but

please remember those, who like me, are caught in the middle.

My modelling subject is Britain's Airborne Forces, therefore, how can I model parachutists and their equipment without the aircraft or the parachute? After all, a packed parachute is only an aircraft that hasn't been assembled (i.e. opened) yet. It is also an area that can beat the 1946 Wehrmacht (i.e. never built) for odd ball subjects, such as an autogyro glider Valentine tank or a Welman one-man submarine on a parachute. These were only projects, but during the Second World War Britain conducted trials with explosive filled speed boats (with operator inside) air-dropped from Dambuster (617 Sqn) Lancasters. So come on folks, let's declare peace, and leave the trenches. Some may never understand it, but to some of us, modelling a military subject involves aircraft as well as vehicles and figures.

Incidentally at the recent IPMS UK Nationals, someone entered a model of the Hafner Rotabuggy in an armoured fighting vehicle class. Surely as a soft skin vehicle converted to an aircraft it was in the wrong class?

A.D. Mellor



IS-3 rumours

Dear Sir,

I read with interest Gary Watson's letter in 'Despatch' (Vol.27 No.15) and Fraser Gray's response in November's issue (Vol.27 No.18) concerning the service history of the Soviet IS-3 heavy tank. I would concur that the IS-3 (or even IS-3M, as pictured at the Museum of Armoured Fighting Vehicles and Equipment at Kubinka) was unlikely to have been used in combat in Europe during the latter stages of WWII, although rumours still persist that it saw service in Manchuria against



the Japanese in August 1945.

Whilst the wish of the Soviet Union to perpetuate the myth that it saw action in the west can be understood in terms of Cold-War propaganda, some confusion may also have arisen from their seemingly arbitrary choice of vehicles for some monuments to the 'Great Patriotic War'. Readers may be interested in photographs which I took earlier this year during a visit to Kursk, of a plinth mounted IS-3M located near the city centre, dedicated to the Soviet 'tank crew - heroes of the Battle of Kursk' and dated 1943. Clearly, the IS-3 was not in service at this time, the KV-1 forming the bulk of Soviet heavy armour,

whilst the IS-1 and IS-2 were still under or awaiting development. A KV-1, or even a Churchill would seem far more appropriate as an example of a contemporary heavy tank used by the Red Army during the greatest tank battle in history!

The main monument to the Battle of Kursk, situated some 70 miles south of the city and not far from Prokhorovka, where the fiercest fighting took place, is however, more conventional - a T-34-85 of wartime vintage.

Development of this variant from the T-34-76 took place in autumn 1943 - too late for the Battle of Kursk - and entered service early in 1944.

Peter Plume

'CRIES FOR HELP'

● Can anyone please help me. Does anyone know the numbers and/or names of any British military units who were posted to, or did a tour of duty at Gibraltar in the period 1830-40. I would be grateful for any assistance with this enquiry.

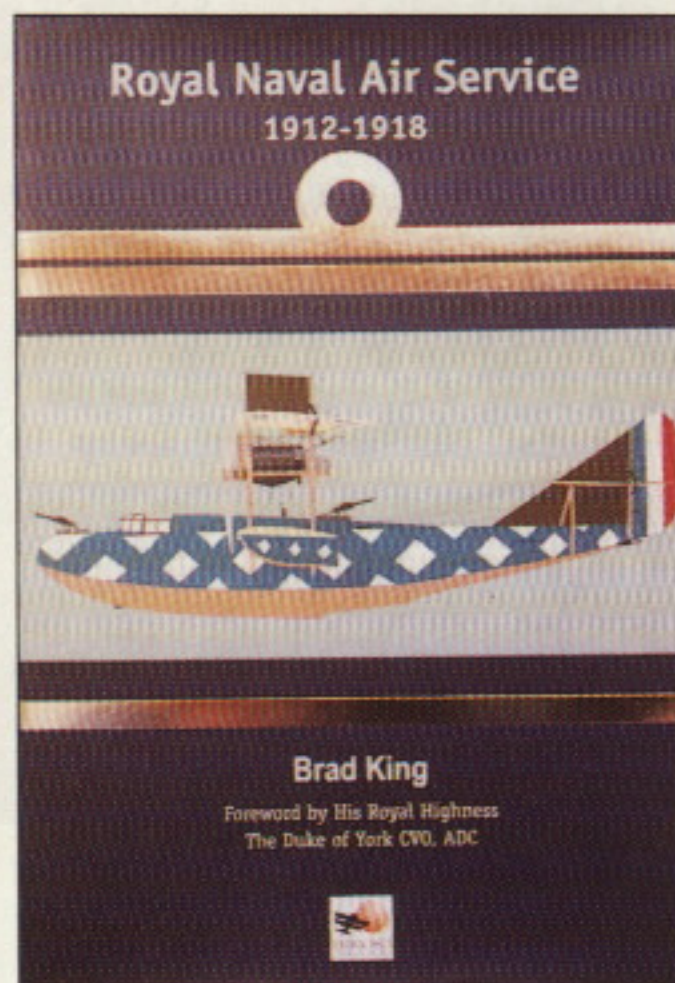
Neil Lyall, 19 Norman Street, Woolloowin, Queensland, Australia 4030.

● I have an Academy Warrior MCV kit which I would like to build into a FOO's vehicle as used by the Royal Artillery. I would be very grateful if anyone could provide me details of markings and external differences from the infantry version. I would also like to know if it would ever wear the additional armour as used by the infantry.

Ken Adolphe, 2 Southey Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 2DY.

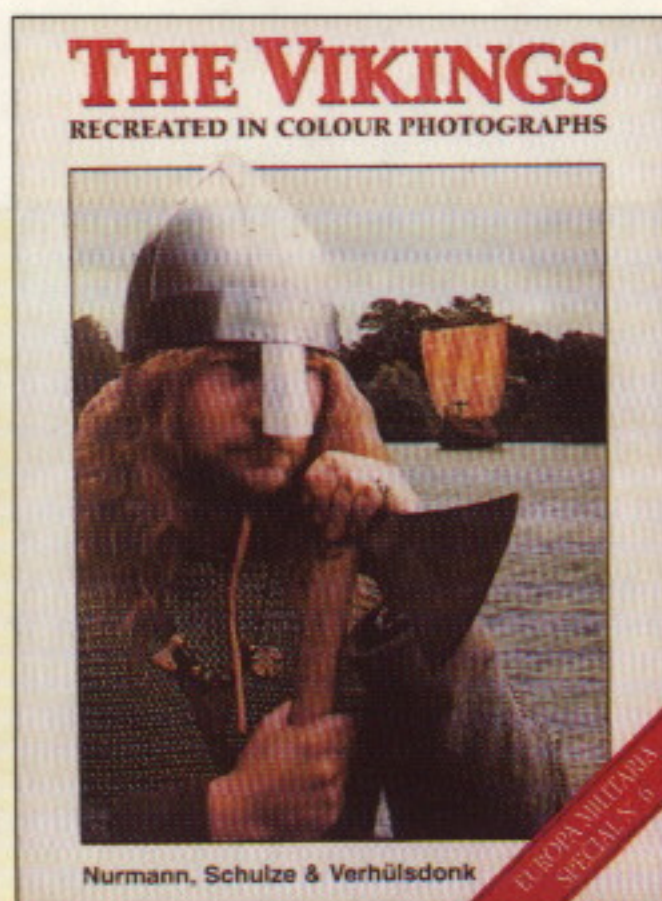
ON PARADE

BOOKS & VIDEOS REVIEWED



Royal Naval Air Service 1912-1918, Brad King. Hikoki Publications, 16 Newport Road, Aldershot, Hants GU12 4PB. ISBN 0-9519899-5-2. Price £24.95.

Books about the Royal Naval Air Service are quite rare and this latest hard cover title from many Hikoki publications does fill a gap in what will probably be unknown ground to many. Author Bradley King's knowledge of his subject is profound; his text is detailed and authoritative, his account of the Royal



The Vikings Recreated in Colour Photographs, Britta Nurmman, Carl Shulze and Torsten Verhülsdonk. Windrow and Greene, 5 Gerrard Street, London W1V 7LJ. ISBN 1-85915-058-6. Price £12.95.

If the ancient period is your interest, especially the Vikings, then this latest Special title, No.6 in the Europa Militaria series from Windrow and Green

should be on your shopping list.

Photographs in full colour abound, with reconstructed dress, armour and weapons, illustrated to perfection. As a visual reference for modellers you will have to go a long way to get such valuable information between two covers for the price. An inspirational book and recommended for modellers. K.M.J.

Naval Air Service from its very beginnings through sterling service in the First World War holds the reader's interest, cover to cover.

The choice of illustrations, always important from modellers and enthusiasts points of view, is terrific. There are some really fine and interesting early photographs included, which stimulate interest in the subject. It isn't all aircraft either. The RNAS operated lots of wheeled transport, motorcycles, armoured lorries and armoured cars, a good cross section of which appear in the photographs. Photographs are properly captioned. No 'one-liners' here, but more than adequate caption blocks describe what can be seen with additional information where necessary. Colour illustrations of aircraft types used by the RNAS, plus four paintings from the Imperial War Museum Gallery illustrate typical and some not so typical types operated by the RNAS.

A photograph on page 22 shows the British General Omnibus Company's 'B' Type buses (remember the 1:32 scale Airfix kit?) in their original livery on their way to Antwerp. These buses were later fitted with wooden slats and painted green as double-decked troop transports. The buses are in the background of the picture, complete with Dewar's White Label whisky adverts on their sides, and this scene conjures up a terrific idea for a diorama.

Page 96 provides a very useful illustration of rank badges and insignia of the RNAS who, of course, retained the Royal Navy type 'ring and loop' insignia on the cuff and epaulette for officers. Some new specialist arm badges for other ranks in naval style were introduced to take in the skills of the new service.

This is an excellent book, well worth its asking price and a fitting tribute to that fine progenitor of today's Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm. Highly recommended. K.M.J.

One time professor of military history at the Cadet College, Sandhurst, Colonel Chesney gained a sound reputation as military critic, but he has not enjoyed the public exposure such as that afforded to writers such as Siborne and thus has tended to be side lined. Thus this reprint from Greenhill Books as Napoleonic Library 32 is particularly welcome, shedding as it does new light on an author whose work is relatively unknown today.

S.A.A.

The Suffolk Regiment 1685-1959, Lieutenant Colonel Eric Lummis, available from Suffolk Regimental History, 218 Colchester Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 4QZ. Price £6.

This new illustrated booklet is a major change from all the previously published regimental histories, written in an easy to read style by Colonel Lummis, a leading authority on the Suffolk Regiment and a former officer of that Regiment.

For the first time, real people have been used to authentically portray nine soldiers from different periods from the history of The Suffolk Regiment (the former 12th Foot) and their uniforms and equipment. It is hoped that by adopting this style, the booklet will appeal to a wide audience of former soldiers, military enthusiasts and younger students. Certainly, this well-produced publication provides an easy to assimilate overview which still contains a great deal of information on an infantry regiment with nearly 300 years service to the crown and which fought at the Boyne, Dettingen, Minden, Seringapatam, Le Cateau, Ypres, Suvla, Falaise and in Burma to name but a very few.

With a very reasonable cover price of £6, which includes postage to anywhere in the world - the booklet is part of a campaign to raise money to help pay for the re-housing of a new Suffolk Regiment Museum within the existing Moyses Hall Museum in Bury St Edmunds. Cheques should be made payable to The Suffolk Regiment Museum Appeal Fund. S.A.A.

Nuts & Bolts Vol. 7, Panzerjäger I, SdKfz 101, 4.7cm PaK(t) Auf Pz.I Ausf B, Heiner F. Duske, Tony Greenland and Frank Schulz. Angela Schulz, Müllerstr. 6, 29525 Uelzen, Germany. Price DM25.50, US\$19, £8.50.

The latest in the Nuts & Bolts series is the best yet and with the 1:35 scale kit of the *Panzerjäger I* soon to be released by Italeri this book couldn't be better timed.

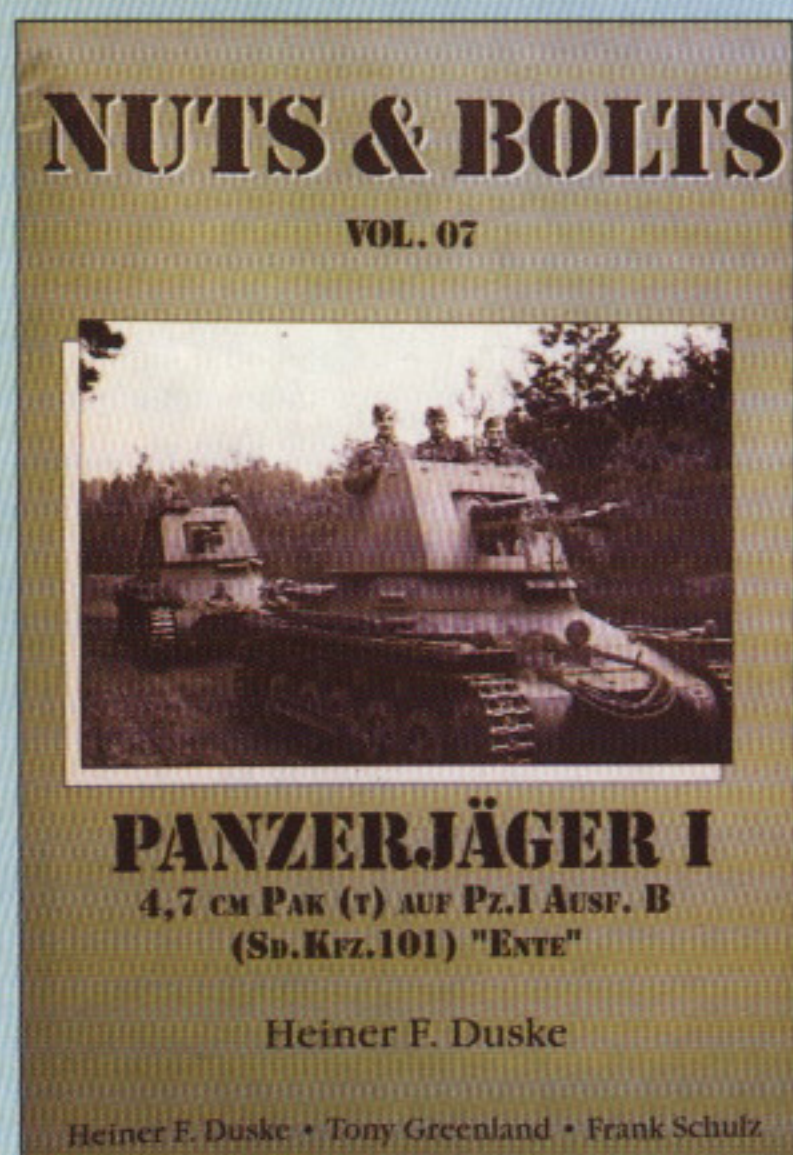
There are 1:35 scale line drawings by John Rue in addition to a super collection of photographs, many of which were taken during the restoration of Aberdeen's

Panzerjäger I at WTS, Koblenz in Germany. It all makes for a

The Skoda 4.7cm Kanon KPUV.vz 38 Model A5 gun is also shown in drawings and photographs mounted on its field carriage with wooden and rubber tyred wheels.

Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ stock the Nuts and Bolts series and can supply Vol. 07 for £8.50 plus 50p postage.

K.M.J.



Waterloo Lectures, Colonel Charles Chesney, Greenhill Books, Park House, 1 Russell Gardens, London NW11 9NN. ISBN 1-85367-288-2. Price £19.99.

Following an authoritative introduction by Peter Hofschroer and a repeat of the author's prefaces to the first, second and third editions, the book contains the text of seven chapters or lectures. These consist of an introduction to the study of the Waterloo campaign, preparations for the campaign and then the events of 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th of June 1815. The last piece covers the retreat of Grouchy, comment, reflection and a summary of the campaign.

When his work was first published in 1868, Colonel Chesney RE was praised for his impartiality in his Waterloo Lectures - a concise and most informative analysis of the campaign. At the time of its first publication in 1868, his even-handed, "non nationalistic" stance was viewed as being controversial, not to say revisionist, in the face of pro-Wellington public opinion.

ATTEN-SHUN!

NEW PRODUCTS REVIEWED

The Editor welcomes product samples for review which should be sent to the Editorial Offices, Nexus House Boundary Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP2 7ST. Unless a prior arrangement has been made with the Editor, review samples will not be returned.



Cromwell Models

New from Cromwell Models is a 1:15 scale half figure which was originally available only in Cromwell's PzKpfw II Luchs tank kit, but is now available as a separate item.

Cast in cream coloured polyurethane resin the figure shows excellent detail and is depicted wearing the two-piece Reed Green work uniform

which has a large pocket on the left hand side. There are only four pieces in the figure kit; body up to the open collar, the left and right arms, including hands, and the head, which has the feldmütze cast on. The shoulder boards denote the rank of stabsfeldwebel (staff/master sergeant) and the Heers eagle and cockade are cast on the cap.

The master was sculpted by Rendall Patten and he has captured the casual pose to perfection. On the construction side there were no casting blocks on the head or arms which saved time, but this meant that an air bubble just under the surface on the right arm opened up as I was cleaning it. A quick wipe with putty soon solved this. The arms to shoulder joints were perfect and did not need any filler at all. There is a small mould line on the left side of the casting, but again, it is pretty insignificant and quick brush with wet and dry sandpaper fixed it.

The head is cast with a generous neck which helps when lining up the chin to the hand. I found that by painting the body and arms separate to the head when they were

joined together no problems were encountered.

This is a lovely figure that will fit into any 1:15 scale German vehicle available and, with a slight bit of work could be modelled as an SS figure too. Given the availability of 120mm (1:15/1:16 scale) figures a spare pair of legs either scratch built or modified from the spares box could also be added if you wish to have him standing.

J.B.

Price £10.50

Cromwell Models, Progress House, 39 Kirkpatrick Street, Glasgow, Scotland G40 3RZ.



Gallery Militaire

"A Gathering of Spirit, Frank C. McCarthy's Native America" is a calendar for 1998 with 12 superb full-colour illustrations of Native North Americans, formally 'Indians', available from Gallery Militaire.

McCarthy's illustrations are spirited and show not only

scenes full of action with plenty 'going on', but also peaceful scenes in spectacular Western settings. For the modeller, there is a lot of reference material and ideas for single figures or dioramas, besides it being an attractive calendar for the home. Price is £11 including post and packing.

Gallery Militaire also stock a number of 'Wild West Indian/



Mountain Men' colour art books - *The Art of Frederick Remington* £12; *The Art of Charles Russell* £12; *Paul Calle an Artist's Journey* £60.

K.M.J.

Prices in text

Gallery Militaire, The Manse, 1 Holstock Road, Ilford, Essex IG6 1LG. Tel: 0181 478 8383. Fax: 0181 553 4331.

Inscribe

With the now established, yet still growing popularity of acrylic paints for figure and vehicle modelling Inscribe have forwarded samples of their range for review. A 2-fluid ounce container of Inscribe acrylic paint costs 99p, which is factory sealed and is very good value for money. When the seal is broken the paint is dispensed via the small opening in the cap and resealed with a flip top. The paint is available in craft and hobby shops.

There are 45 non-toxic, water based colours shown on Inscribe's colour chart with two mediums or varnishes not shown - 1790 'Glitter Glaze' and 1791 Pearl Glaze. Some of the names sound quite exotic and would be more at home for describing ladies lipsticks and nail polishes - but do not let this put you off! For example, 1702 Almond, 1703 Porcelain Flesh, 1704 Seashell Pink and 1705 Peach Blush will give you the basic colours for a flesh painting palette! The paints are creamy, brush on well and thin very easily for spraying through the airbrush. I would, however, suggest the colours are applied over a primed surface on metals, plastics and resins; the undercoat is needed to provide 'tooth' for the paint.

There is a range of basic colours available and for 99p you get quite a lot of paint in the pot. So, enjoy the descriptions, but study the chart carefully for what you require and remember, acrylic colours are inter-mixable so from this list you could mix up the shades of your choice. Pure Silver Metallic (1715) and Pure Gold Metallic (1716) are available, but the name that takes my fancy is 'Boysenberry' (1708) which is somewhere near Crimson.

Get yourself a free colour chart and see what's on offer.

K.M.J.

Price in text

Inscribe Ltd., The Woolmer Industrial Estate, Bordon, Hampshire GU35 9QE. Tel: 01420 475747. Fax: 01420 489867.



The Stadden Collection

Toye, Kenning & Spencer Ltd., have re-launched the extensive range of Charles S. Stadden

80mm figures in antiqued pewter finish or painted. Obviously the price difference is vast - a plain antiqued pewter figure costs £43.50

whereas a hand-painted figure (King Henry VIII is quoted) retails at £115.

A fully illustrated colour brochure/poster showing the

top 100 figures is available. The remainder of the collection (around 250 figures) is still available, but on a made-to-order basis. A five-piece band of the 3rd Foot Guards 1815 is a new addition to the range.

We still get lots of enquiries about the availability of the Stadden range which, until now, we couldn't answer and would ask interested parties to telephone House of Toye's London Showroom 0171 242 0471 for further information on stockists. They also have a web site: www.toye.co.uk.

K.M.J.

Prices in text
House of Toye, 19, 20 & 21 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5BE.



Dragon Models Ltd

A new 1:16 scale (120mm) injection moulded plastic figure kit has been added to Dragon's 1/16 Warrior Series - kit No.1614 is a machine-gunner of the 13th Mountain Troop Handschar. The Handschar were

Moslem troops trained in mountain warfare and distinguishable by their distinctive fez (tarboosh) head-dress.

Dragon 1:16 scale figure kits are cast in light grey polystyrene plastic and fit together quite easily, the fit of parts usually being very good, but you may find a wipe of filler is needed here and there, the body halves having a longitudinal join. However, by clamping the body parts together and using liquid cement run along the join usually a complete seal will be formed around the parts requiring no filling. Simply leave for at least 24 hours and then scrape and sand the join lightly for a perfect finish.

The legs are solid parts in this kit and do not have to be joined, they slot into the body. A big rucksack is included, in halves, which has to be joined, but it need not be used. I do like the separate elasticated cuffs for the tunic into which

the hands slot. Both hands have separate thumbs so they can be made to fit around the MG-42 pistol grip, the machine-gun being carried over the left shoulder. The right thumb is also separate, so I suppose this hand could be made to hold something too - perhaps the ammunition box for the MG-42 which is included in the kit on the weapons sprue for the MG-42. This 'common' sprue for the MG-42 also has opened and closed bipods, the gun, of course, in kit form, a belt of ammunition, instrument boxes, the ammunition box, a pistol holster and a spare barrel container. An extra sprue in the kit, and usually found with Dragon's MG-34 is the 50-round belt box for the machine-gun which also fitted the later MG-42. Other sprues supply the standard German mess tin, water bottle and the distinctive metal gas mask container.

A Model 1935 steel helmet is provided and this could be substituted for the fez, which also opens up the prospects for conversion to other types of mountain troops (gerbirgsjäger). The conversion potential of these Dragon kits is very high and you can easily swap parts or perform major kit surgery to get what you want without breaking the bank! A black moulded plastic square plinth base is provided on which to display the figure.

LSA Models, 3 Hawkins Crescent, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 6TN, tel: 01273 592775/0973 551470/01273 705420, fax: 01273 592775 have the kit on their list for £10.75.

K.M.J.

Price £10.75
Dragon Models Ltd., 603-609 Castle Peak Road, Kong Nam Industrial Building 10/fl., B-1, Tsuen Wan, New Territories, Hong Kong.

Fingerprint Designs

A very useful set of decals (Sheet 35/001) for marking the interiors of 1:35 scale German WWII AFVs has been produced by Fingerprint Designs, a new name to our column.

The decals are produced in black or white for use on ivory, tan, panzer or field grey. The lettering is tiny, but readable under a glass and will be a godsend for those who like to include everything. Produced for the Academy kit's Tiger I interior the decals can be used for most German AFVs, especially the open-topped vehicles where they will come into their own for maximum visual effect. A glance at any good clear photograph of a German military

vehicle interior will show the Teutonic penchant for labelling things. Eight solid and eight outline crosses are also provided in two sizes on the sheet.

A little bit of guidance as to placement and, indeed, translations of the printed legends on the kit slip, especially for beginners and younger modellers, would not have gone amiss here; granted, some are fairly self-explanatory. However, reference sources are provided and anyone detailing a vehicle to the 'enth degree, I suppose, will be assumed to have the appropriate illustrations and reference - though I'm often taken to task by readers for 'assuming'. A simple German-English glossary would have helped.

Obviously more sheets will be produced if the first release takes off, so treat yourself to a sheet or two and put the show on the road for Stefan P. Switala who has designed these decals. The decal sheet costs £3.50 plus post and packing in the UK and EU of 10p per sheet, minimum charge 50p; maximum charge £1.20. Postage elsewhere is 20% of order, minimum charge £1. At the present time payment in sterling cheques and postal orders only, payable to S. Switala. Credit and debit cards can not be accepted. Trade enquiries are welcome.

K.M.J.

Price £3.50 each
Fingerprint Designs, Belmont House, 22 Kent Road, Birkdale, Southport PR8 4BJ.





Nemrod

Produced by Historex of France, Nemrod is a range of 1:35 scale, 54mm and larger figure kits produced in polyurethane resin, some having injection moulded plastic parts selected from the vast Historex spare parts range included.

Elsewhere in this month's issue, American modeller Phil Kessling has assembled and made a slight conversion to a 54mm Nemrod Napoleonic period figure to produce a trumpeter of the 23rd Dragoons. This illustrates the conversion potential of the Nemrod range which needn't be simply made up straight from the box.

The 1:35 scale range has some WWII Germans which are very highly detailed and superbly cast in polyurethane resin. I'm really impressed with the standard of casting, in a light grey colour resin, which contrasts against the white, injection moulded plastic Historex parts

that are added. Alongside the existent Historex range of plastic figures these Nemrod models give the 54mm modeller one heck of a big range to choose from.

Historex Agents of Dover stock the Historex and Nemrod ranges and can supply further information and prices. In addition to the more conventional means of contact by post, telephone or fax Historex can be reached by E-mail at: sales@historex-agents.demon.co.uk. Or you can visit their web site: <http://www.historex-agents.demon.co.uk>.

No doubt we'll see more of the Nemrod range in future issues. The representative pictures with this review simply scratch the surface of what is available.

K.M.J.

Prices see list

Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ.



Fernando Enterprises

Based in Sri Lanka Fernando Enterprises paint 15mm, 20mm, 25mm, 30mm and upwards, round and flat figures from all periods. The company say they finish 5,000-6,000 figures per month for US, UK and German customers! The company began painting miniatures in 1992 and offer a full miniature figures painting service.

K.M.J.

Fernando Enterprises, 107 Galle Road, Walana, Panadura, Sri Lanka. Tel: 0094-34-32833. Fax: 0094-34-32833, 0094-1-732992.



Dragon Models Ltd

A new addition to Dragon's '39-'45 Series is a horse-drawn 2.8cm sPzB41 Anti Tank gun and JF8 Limber complete with crew. Although only one horse and three men are needed to complete the scene shown on the boxtop, parts enough for two horses (from the cavalry kits) and four figures are provided in true Dragon style, so you can up the ante somewhat regarding what you can produce from the box. This is a good kit for improvers and converters.

The 2.8cm 'squeeze-bore' 2.8cm anti-tank gun and limber are delightful little kits on their own sprues and both finely detailed. The little wheels sometimes seen on the airborne version of the gun are still in

the kit, but a pair of larger 'travelling' wheels are provided to make the gun look like the configuration shown on the box top illustration. It's quite a box of tricks and although you can produce what's featured in the box top illustration, in true Dragon style there is a lot of extras for your money so you can let your imagination produce something quite different than what is intended.

The review kit came direct from Hong Kong and we have no UK price yet, but expect to pay in the region of £10-£15.

K.M.J.

Price not known

Dragon Models Ltd., 603-609 Castle Peak Road, Kong Nam Industrial Building 10/fl., B-1, Tsuen Wan, New Territories, Hong Kong.



Dragon Models Ltd

The superb 1:35 scale T-34/85 kit recently released by Dragon Models has been followed, as expected, by a slight variation on the same theme - Kit No.3318 a North Vietnamese Army T-

34/85M for the 1:35 'NAM' Series. Dragon's T-34 has got to be the most accurate and dimensionally correct version of the type produced to date.

The NVA variant of the T-34/85 is the first kit with various 'tweaks' here and there with the

major addition being a set of different pattern pressed steel dished road wheels, the type also found on early T-series vehicles which followed the T-34 into service. No, you don't get two sets of roadwheels, but there's an extra sprue from a

Dragon Sherman kit added so you can use the US .50 cal machine-gun to produce a T-34/85M of the Croatian National Guard, Dubrovnik, Croatia 1991!. Separate track links are provided.

it is another good variation on a theme by altering an already excellent kit. The T-34/85 has seen service all over the world and decals are provided for different examples. In addition to NVA and the Croatian National Guard there's markings for JNA Karlovac Croatia 1991, Somali Army 1978 and Angolan Army 1980.

There's no UK price as yet, but expect to pay £20-£25 or less from discount mail order houses advertising in this magazine.

K.M.J.

Price not known

Dragon Models Ltd., 603-609 Castle Peak Road, Kong Nam Industrial Building 10/fl., B-1, Tsuen Wan, New Territories, Hong Kong.



Eduard Precision Parts

Produced in the Czech Republic, Eduard photo-etched brass model accessories have been available for some time from UK outlets, but it took an enterprising Canadian, Terrence Jones (no relation except he shares a popular surname) to get these fine products reviewed in the "Atten-shun!" column.

Some etched leaves for Oak (35147), Chestnut (35148) and Maple (35152) all priced at US \$11.99, CDN \$14.99, £4.95, are simply removed from the fret and stuck to 'twigs' and 'branches', but a complete tree, to scale, would be very cost prohibitive using etched leaves. For garnishing dioramas and even single figure studies and, of course, military vehicle models, they are ideal. Another application would be, perhaps, foliage camouflage on the helmets and clothing of 1:35 and larger scale figures.

New model vehicle detail kits are 35134, which is an interior kit for Academy's Tiger I Ausf E (US \$14.99, CDN \$19.99, £5.95). Tamiya's Ford GPA Amphibian kit 35141 (if you can find one) gets the detail treat-

ment for US \$9.99 CDN \$11.99 £3.95.

Italeri's Opel Blitz Type 'S' truck has quite a comprehensive set of parts including printed details on clear film for instrument dials, price US \$19.99, CDN \$24.99, £7.95. Zvezda's kleiner PzBefW I Ausf B (SdKfz 265) model has details for both its exterior and interior, price US \$19.99, CDN \$24.99, £7.95. The panzerbefehlswagen is the command vehicle on the PzKpfw I Ausf B chassis. Tamiya's Flakpanzer IV, the Wirbelwind can be detailed and its 'un-scale' parts replaced with 35156, price US \$19.99, CDN \$24.99, £7.95.

Kit 35175 has detail fittings for the Italeri, or Dragon's, Russian ISU-152 self propelled gun, price US \$14.99, CDN \$19.99, £5.95. Again, if you can find one, Tamiya's M3 Grant Mark I can be detailed with 35158, for US \$19.99, CDN \$24.99, £7.95 with some 'snazzy' in-scale sand shields and other appropriate fittings. The ambiguously titled 'Modern Floor Plate' is 35159 which can be cut to fit any appropriate area where a non-skid surface is required, price US \$14.99, CDN \$19.99, £5.95. Perhaps this one should have been in nickel or similar metal to avoid painting stages, because modern non-skid plates are steel or aluminium and once painted it's easy to chip the paint off to show the bare metal below.

US, Canadian and readers from the rest of the World can order direct from Eduard Precision Parts Canada. The sterling prices quoted are from Hannants of Harbour Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 2LZ, who stock the Eduard range.

K.M.J.

Prices in text

Eduard Precision Parts, 49 Fair Oaks CR., Nepean, Ontario, Canada K2G 4W3. Tel: (613) 224-9071. Fax: (613) 727-5288. US address 800 Proctor Avenue, Ogdensburg, NY 13669, USA. Eduard Model Accessories, 435 21 Obrnice 170, Czech Republic.

Aber

A set of 112 shell case bases for German ammunition (35A48) is a new addition to the Aber range of photo-etched brass accessories. Described as 'Bottom Plates for German 88 & 75 Ammo' what you get is the rim of the cartridge case complete with details of the striker and the identity of the ammunition etched-in. These can be fitted to white metal, resin or plastic kit parts and can make ammunition bins on AFVs, where only the base of the shell case is visible, look full - or partially filled! Included are 8.8cm KwK43 and KwK36, plus 7.5cm KwK42 and Pak40. (KwK is the German abbreviation for Kampfwagenkanone or fighting vehicle gun and Pak is Panzerabwehrkanone or anti-tank gun).

Paint the base black then wipe the paint away before it dries to reveal the striker cap and any etched details. However, check your references, some German shell cases were steel and not all were brass. (Etched nickel, perhaps?) A simple way to produce super details, instructions on using photo-etched brass are provided.

Aber are produced in Poland and Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ stock the complete range and will send a full listing on receipt of a self addressed stamped envelope. They also have and can supply the Aber catalogue which is well worth obtaining for £2.50 plus 50p postage. There just might be something in it to improve the model you're making. The fret costs £5.25 plus postage 50p direct from Historex Agents.

K.M.J.

Price in text

PPH 'Aber', 40-060 Katowice, ul. Fliegera 8/6, Poland.

On Track Model Co.

The German WWII 12.8cm *Selbstfahrlafette L/61 Pzsf V*, the *Sturer Emil* is a new 1:35 scale kit (35004) released by On Track Model Co. of Hong Kong who seem to specialise in 'rare', rather than oddball, German vehicles of WWII. This is a complete kit comprising polyurethane resin and injection moulded plastic parts, plus a turned metal gun barrel.

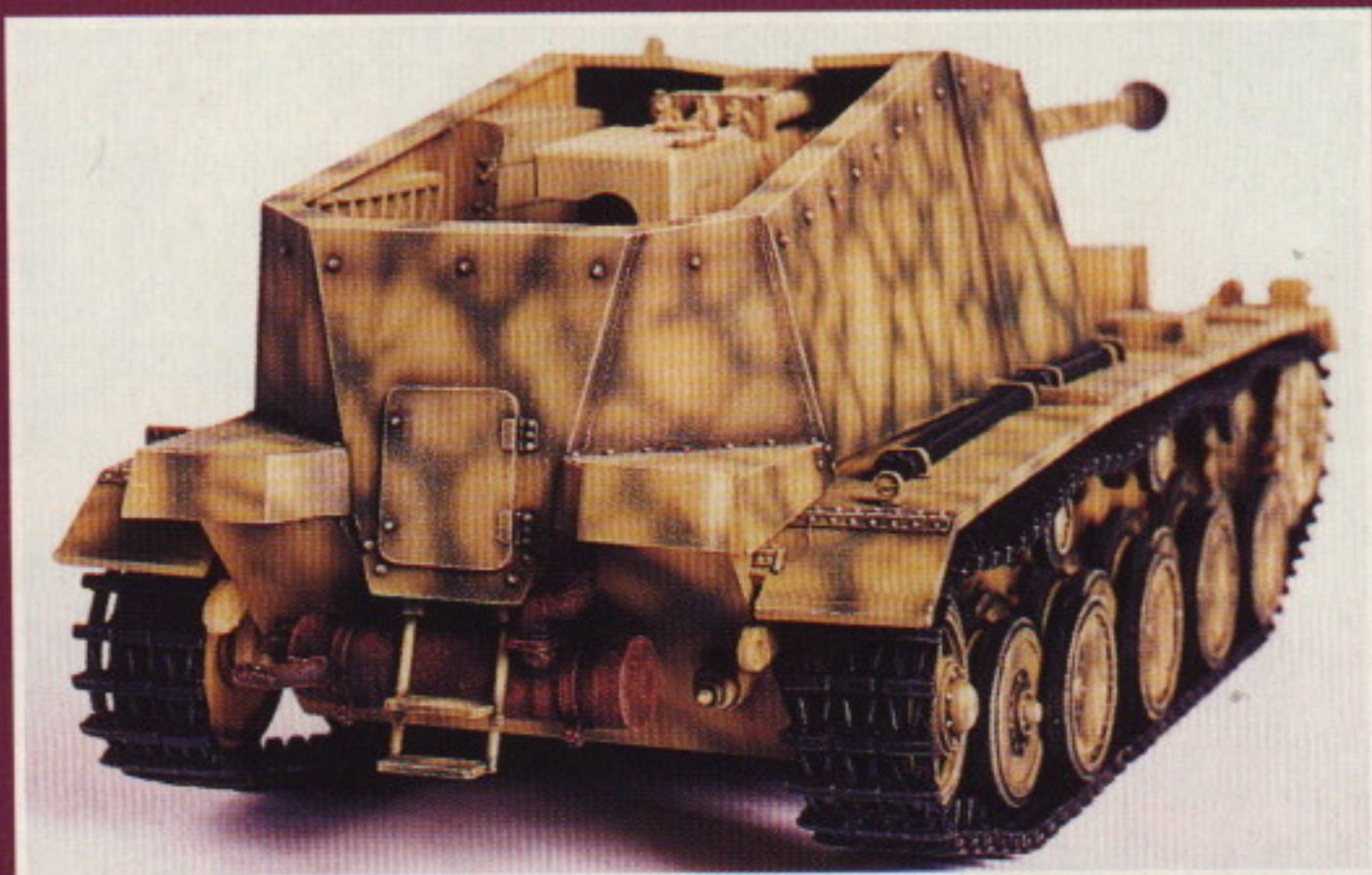
Two of these unusual vehicles were built using VK3001(H) components for the chassis and the resultant *Sturer Emil* saw service the Eastern Front where the Russians are known to have captured one, or perhaps both, of them. The type had quite a low silhouette and mounted a big 12.8cm L/61 gun, the *Gerät 40* developed from the Flak weapon, which would pierce anything at long range that the Russians could put on the battlefield. With a limited traverse in an armoured superstructure the *Sturer Emil* if not well protected would have easily have been outflanked and disabled by even the 76.2mm gun on any fast and mobile T-34 that managed to get within range of it; or any good HE shot from a field gun would have given its crew a lot more than a headache. The idea was to stand off and destroy Soviet tanks at long range with the 12.8cm self propelled gun protected, presumably, by infantry and other anti-tank guns.

The hull and all other components, except tracks, roadwheels and gun barrel, are cast in a cream colour polyurethane resin showing remarkable detail. There are a lot of parts

and the interior is well provided for, the gun breech and its associated paraphernalia take up a lot of the bits and naturally, as intended, become the highly detailed centre-piece of the fighting compartment.

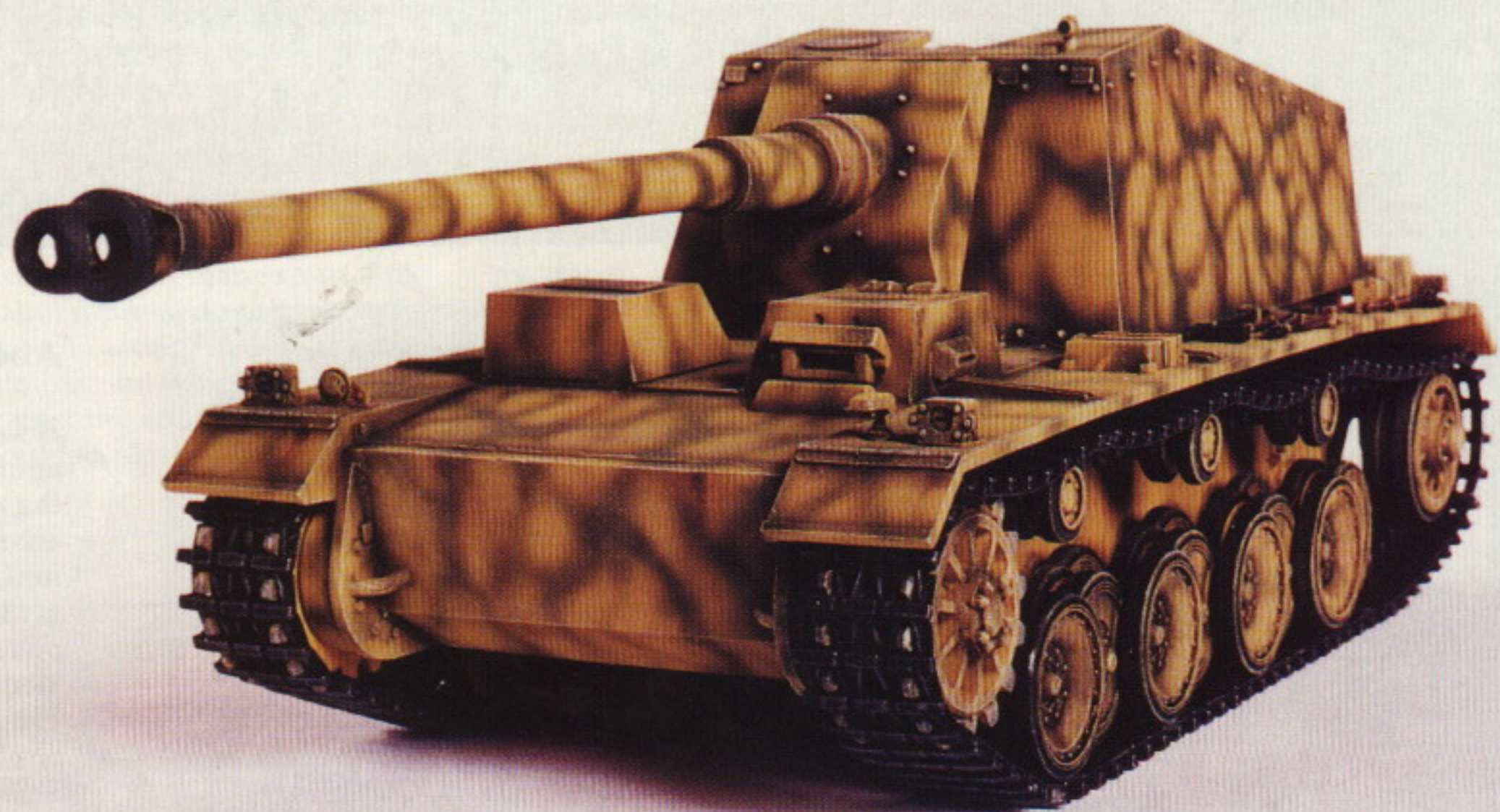
The roadwheels and track links, not the sprocket, idler and return rollers, which are resin, are on injection moulded plastic sprues. Each sprue, and there are 24 of them, has two roadwheels and eight separate track links. These assemble into the 16 roadwheels per side, four spaced outside of four inner pairs producing and interleaved configuration on eight torsion bar axles. It looks complicated, but it isn't if you follow the kit instruction sheet which has drawings of the layout.

It's not cheap! However, it is



good quality and available, price £79.50 from Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ. K.M.J.

Price in text
On Track Model Co., PO Box No. 65050 Tesung Swan O Post Office, Kowloon, Hong Kong.



New Connection Models

Produced in Germany by Scratch Yard, New Connection Models offer conversion kits and accessories for AFV modellers. Although not cheap, these kits comprise good quality parts, using various media to achieve a common goal. There are upwards of 54 items listed in the New Connection range.

NC3528 has conversion parts for Tamiya's 1:35 scale *SdKfz 231* eight-wheel armoured car to produce the *spät* or late version. The kit has a new hull top, mudguards and turret cast in a cream colour polyurethane

resin. Fittings are cast in white metal and a 2cm gun barrel with flash eliminator in turned brass replaces the kit item. These parts 'rattle around' in the box for £31.50 and the exploded diagrams on the instruction sheet show how it all fits together on the Tamiya model (kit no. 35036) which has to be assembled up to step 6.

NC3503 is something really different - a T-34 flakvierling, based on a German field workshop conversion to a Soviet T-34 tank. Evidently, according to the instructions, *Panzerjäger Abteilung 653* effected the change during early 1944 in Galicia in Poland to produce anti-aircraft protection for its headquarters unit. The armour plate for the turret was cut from wrecked German half-tracks and ammunition for the 2cm *flakvierling* 38 was stowed on the hull sides. It shows how the German field workshops were equally adept and ingenious as the Third Reich's armament factories at producing extemporised vehicles.

The conversion parts in the kit are cast in polyurethane resin and a complete Tamiya 2cm flakvierling is included too. Four turned brass 2cm gun barrels are provided to replace those in the Tamiya kit which have to be cut away from the breeches. Other stowage

and fittings are cast in white metal. Although a 1:35 scale Tamiya T-34 model kit is recommended the instructions say that any T-34 kit with dish roadwheels can be used. Tamiya's assembly instructions for the 2cm flakvierling are included also. Price is £36.50 which is an expensive, (but necessary for some modellers) way to produce a most unusual one-off vehicle model. The small flak turret on the T-34 certainly gives it a very modern, up-to-date look, and far more swish and stylish than some post war official 'lash-ups' issued to troops.

Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ stock the New Connections range. K.M.J.

Prices in text
New Connection Models,
Dorfgrütingen 40, D-91555
Feuchtwangen, Germany.



Cromwell Models

A set of three paratroopers (*fallschirmjäger*) two men carrying a wounded man is on release from Cromwell Models and titled 'Wounded Eagle' (CF61). The three are cast as a one-piece item with the heads, arms, hands and equipment to attach, which eliminates the problems encountered, especially for beginners, in lining



everything up so it looks correct. There are no moulding blocks to remove, except from the soles of the boots which are easily pared away with a sharp blade. A colour photograph is included as a painting guide. Price is £15.50.

A diorama set-piece of German paratroopers in a Monte Casino scenario (DS1) was released for Euro Militaire and comprises 10 separate figures in action poses that fit onto a cast base depicting rubble at the base of a wall. A complete, but not virtually instant, diorama results because there's a lot of work needed to assembling and paint 10 figures, let alone the scenic base! Then for the price of £95, you wouldn't want it to be a 'box rattler', but consider when divided by 10 and the cost of the base is taken into consideration doesn't sound quite too expensive.

Cromwell Models are actively extending their 1:35

scale, 54mm and 1:15 scale (120mm) figure ranges and there will be more additions throughout the year.

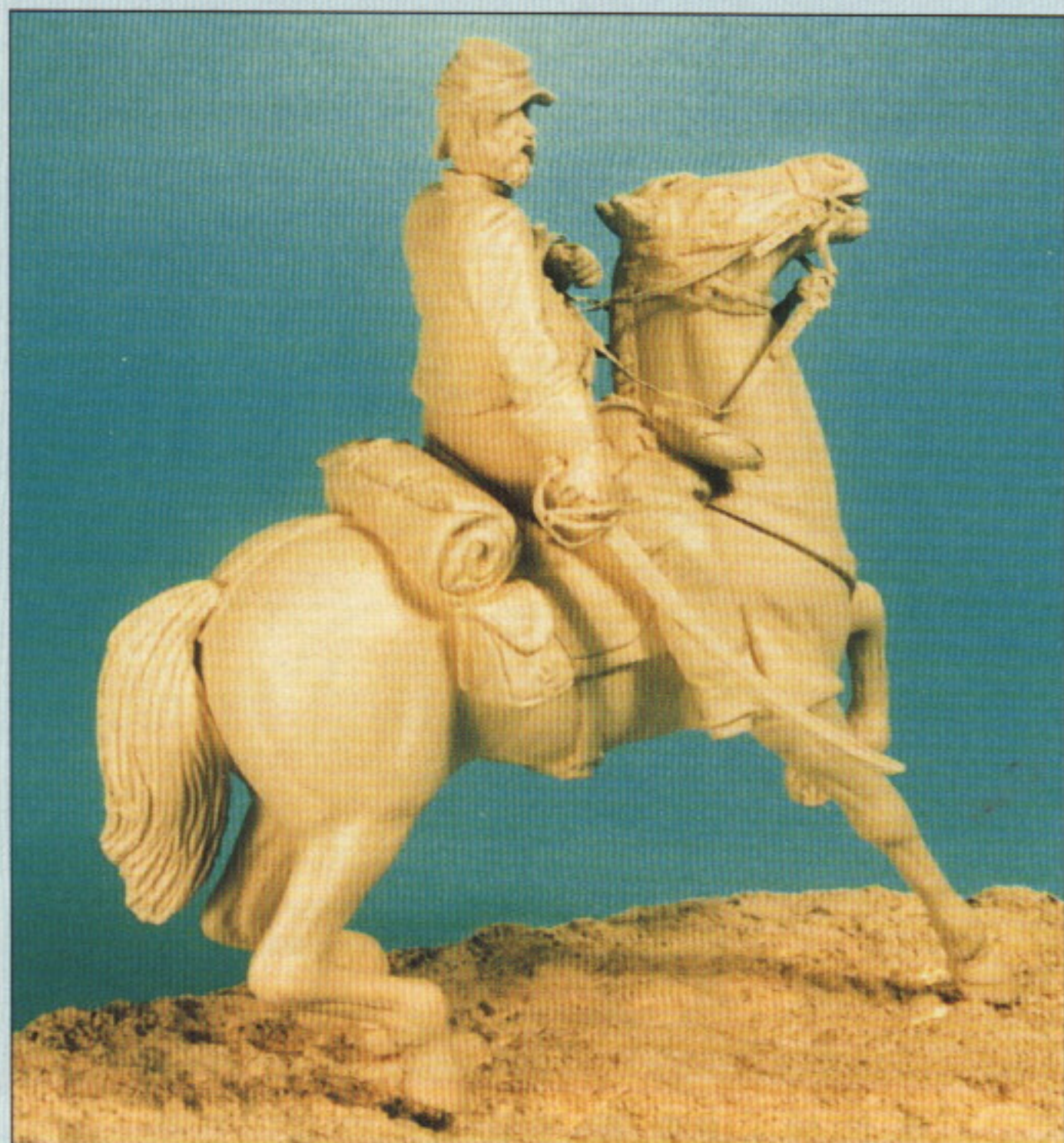
The first mounted cavalymen for the American Civil War Series have been released - an officer, a trooper and standard bearer all priced at £21, and there's more on the way. The Earp Brothers and Doc Holliday in a four-figure set (CS1) has been released at £28.50 and seem to be proving very popular, but more about this quartet later. Cromwell have more ranges and kits planned and these will be announced in the new year.

You can visit Cromwell's Web Site <http://www.xs4all.nl/~cromwell> or e-mail them at cromwell@xs4all.nl

K.M.J.

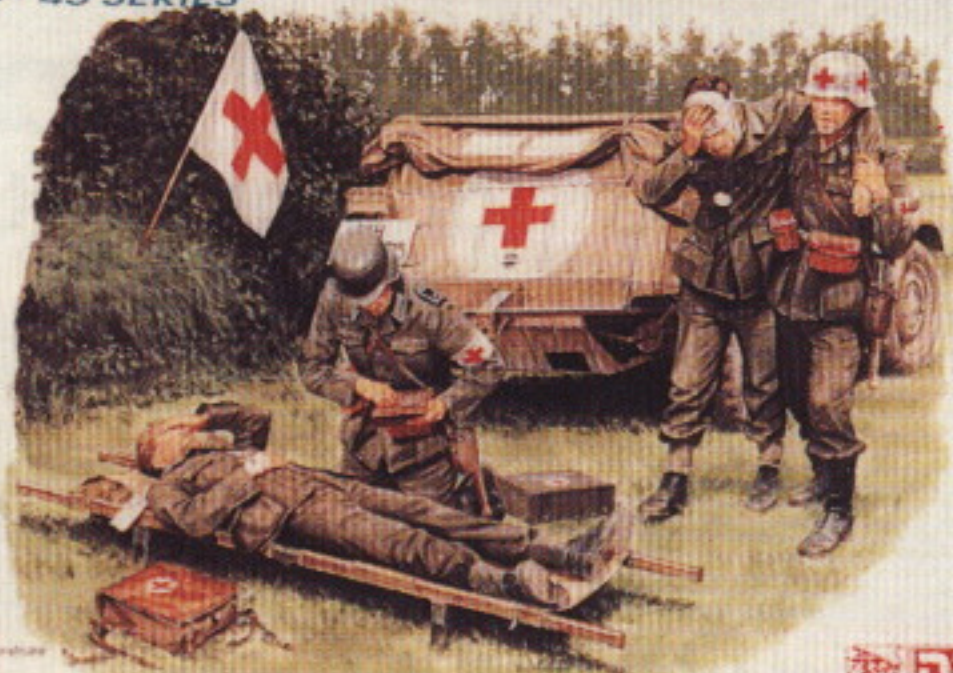
Price in text

Cromwell Models, Dept MM, Progress House, 39 Kirkpatrick Street, Glasgow, Scotland G40 3RZ. Tel: 0141-554 2400. Fax 0141-556 7300.



GERMAN MEDICAL TROOPS

1:35 '39-'45 SERIES



DRAGON

Dragon Models Ltd

German Medical Troops (6074) and *German Sturmpanzer* (6076) have been added to Dragon's 1:35 scale '39-'45 Series and sent direct to us for review from Hong Kong.

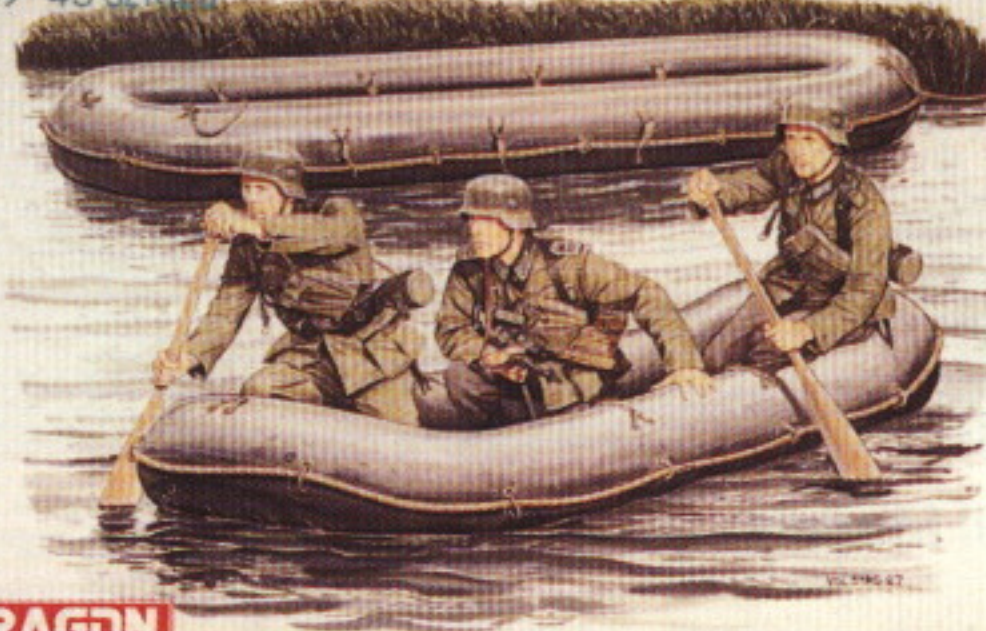
There are four figures in the Medical Troops set, in kit form, comprising two wounded soldiers and two medical orderlies. Poses are very good, they are natural with one man laid on a stretcher, his hand on his head with the medical orderly kneeling beside him busying himself with selecting the appropriate medication from his pouch. The other

orderly is assisting a 'walking wounded' soldier whose head is bandaged. The sculpting and design of these figures is very good right down to the casualties' identity tags outside their uniforms necessary for personal details required by the medics. 'Red Cross' decals are provided for an aid post flag and the arm bands and rucksack markings. Price will be around £5.99.

A rubber assault boat (*kleiner floss sack 34*) with three soldiers also makes a very good vignette in itself, especially if the boat was set in 'water' on a scenic base. Two men paddle the craft with wooden paddles whilst

GERMAN STURMPIONIERE w/ASSAULT RAFT (KLEINER FLOSSACK 34)

1:35 '39-'45 SERIES



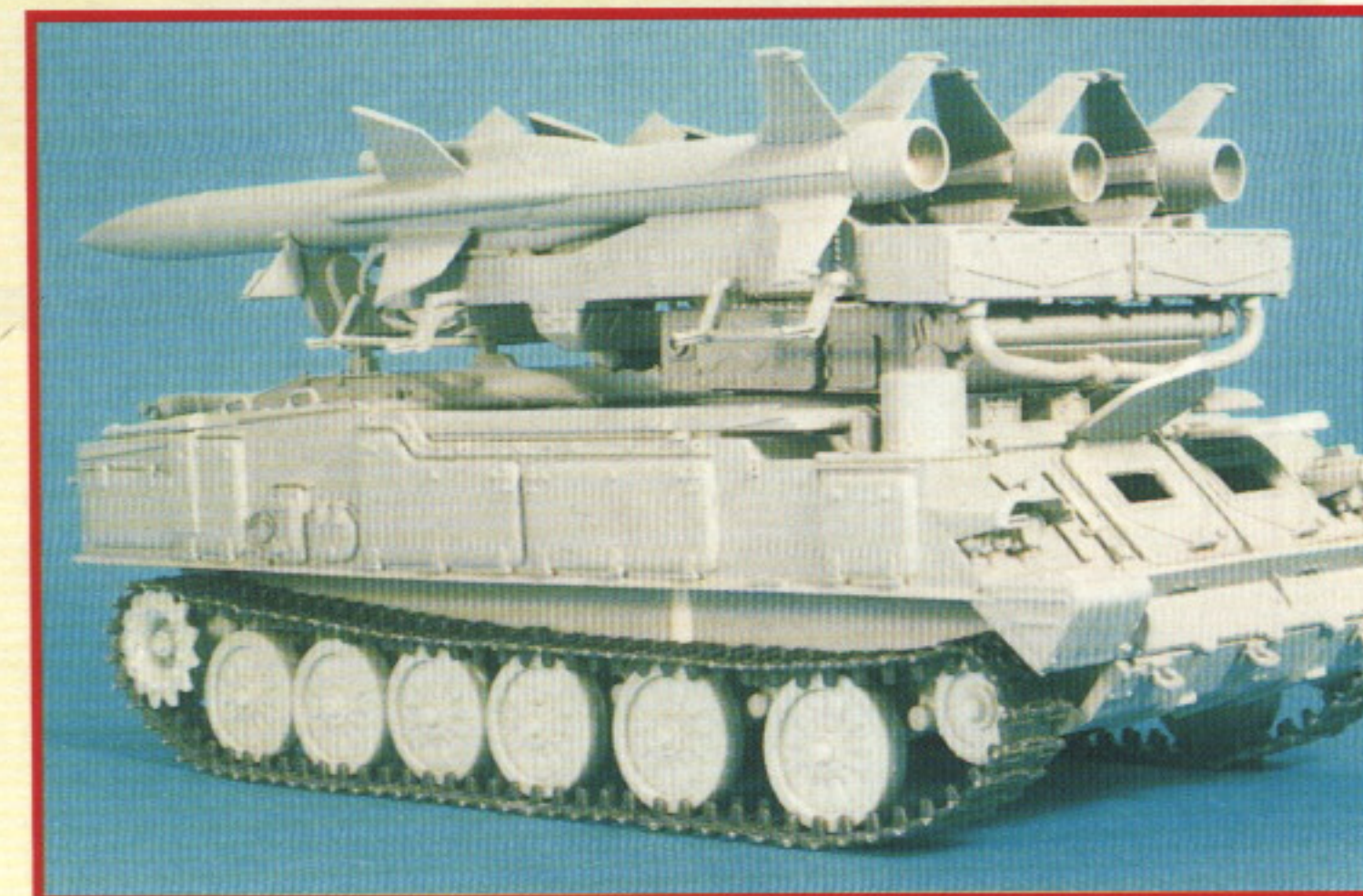
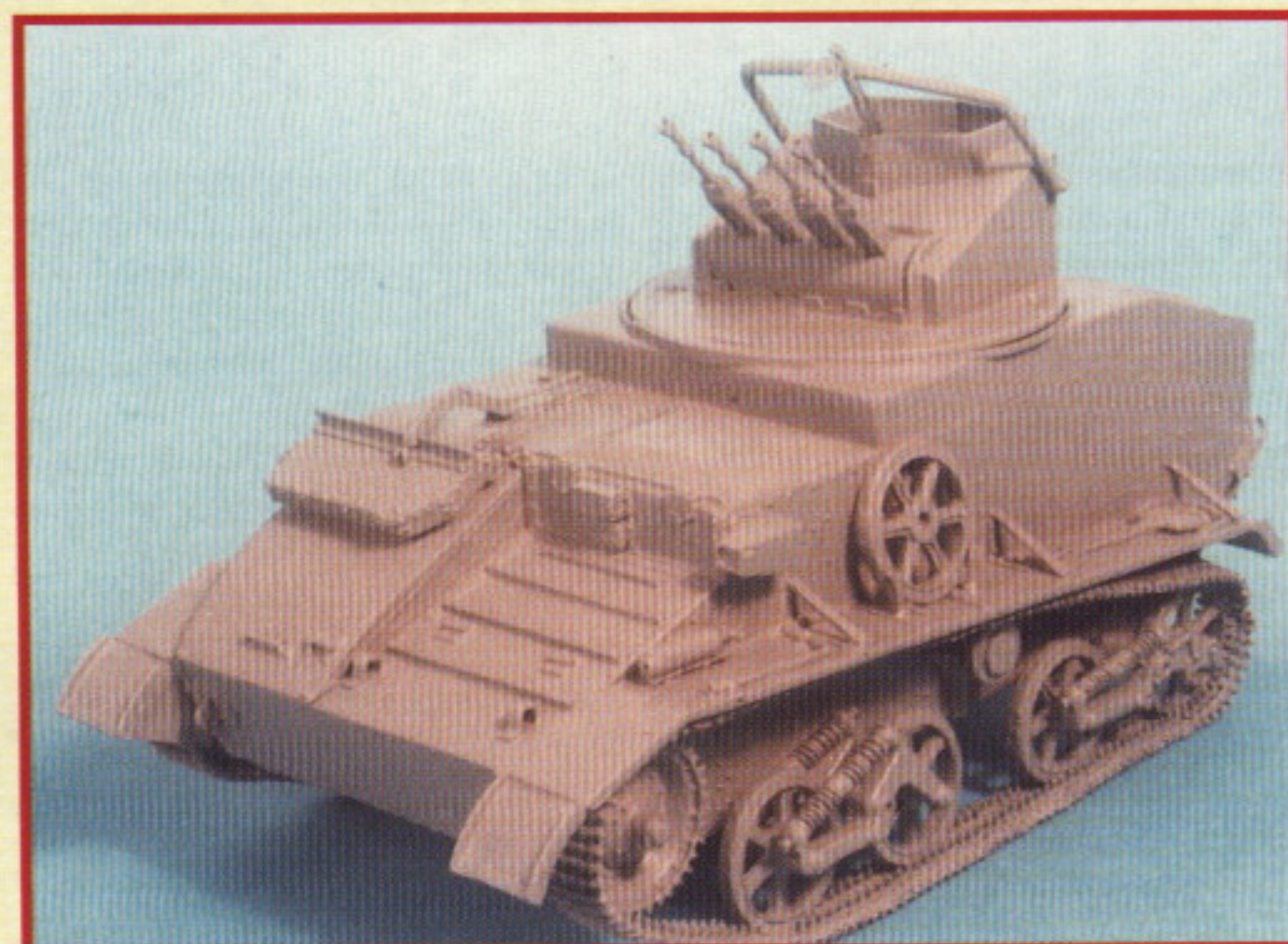
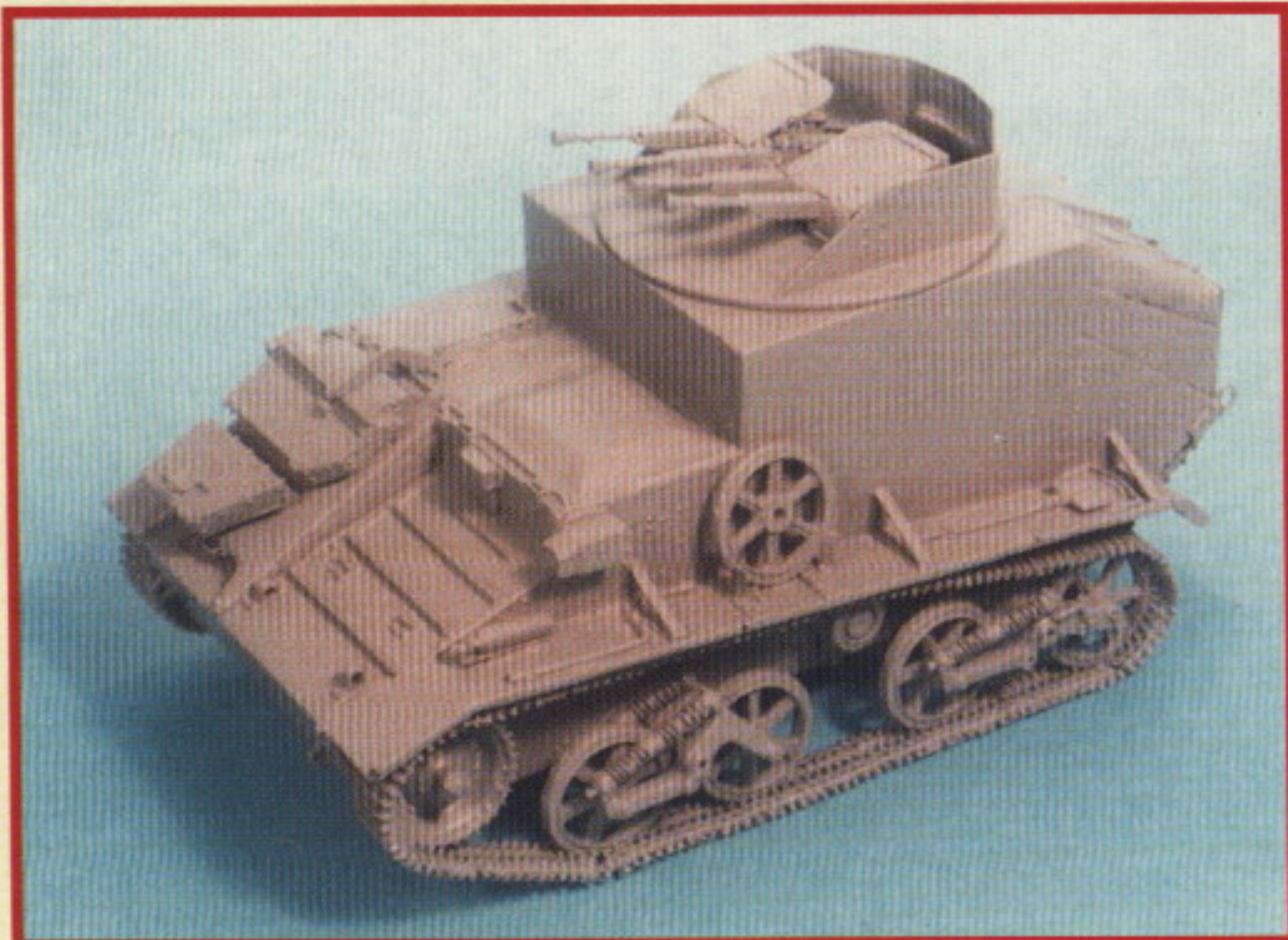
DRAGON

the NCO kneels in it to give instructions. All are dressed for the early War period (1940) with full assault equipment. The inflatable is supplied as a separate sprue with paddles, a bellows, cleats and a lifeline to go around the side of the craft. A larger rubber boat is shown in the background of the box top illustration - a future release, perhaps? Price will be in the region of £5.99.

K.M.J.

Prices in text

Dragon Models Ltd., 603-609 Castle Peak Road, Kong Nam Industrial Building 10/fl., B-1, Tsuen Wan, New Territories, Hong Kong.



Cromwell Models

If you have built one of Cromwell Models' excellent 1:35 scale British Vickers Light Tank Mark VI you may be interested to know they have produced both sub marks of the anti-aircraft tanks built on the tank chassis towards the War's end. Both versions have been produced, the first attempt being the Mark I (CK70) with four 7.92mm Besa machine guns in a 360° rotating turret intended to provide anti-aircraft support to armoured divisions. The improved, if you could call it

that, Mark II (CK68) has a slightly lower hull and enclosed turret with a small raised cupola for the gunner's head to observe the AA sight bar fitted which elevated via a linkage with the Besa guns. These are unusual British types, for a change; and complete kits cast in polyurethane resin with internal detail too, price £48 each.

A conversion kit for Tamiya's IS III kit to produce the Soviet post War ISU 152 has been released at £28.50. The huge cast casemate type upper hull, with its massive mantlet and gun based on the vehicle in Kubinka,

has been superbly produced by Cromwell. Our review sample is being built up for a more in-depth feature on this unusual vehicle for a future issue.

A schmorturm conversion for Dragon Models *PzKpfw IV Ausf J* which produces a projected German late-War design (CA71) costs £25.50. This has the schmorturm, hull top, glacis and other fittings cast in polyurethane resin to produce the type. The old *Panzer IV* with a new hat certainly loses a lot of

its familiarity.

Finally, The SA-6 Gainful SAM is an extensive conversion for Dragon Models ZSU 23-4V1 *Shilka* kit at £54. Again, our review sample is being built up and we'll report on this one in more depth in a future issue.

K.M.J.

Prices in text
Cromwell Models, Dept MM,
Progress House, 39 Kirkpatrick
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7300.

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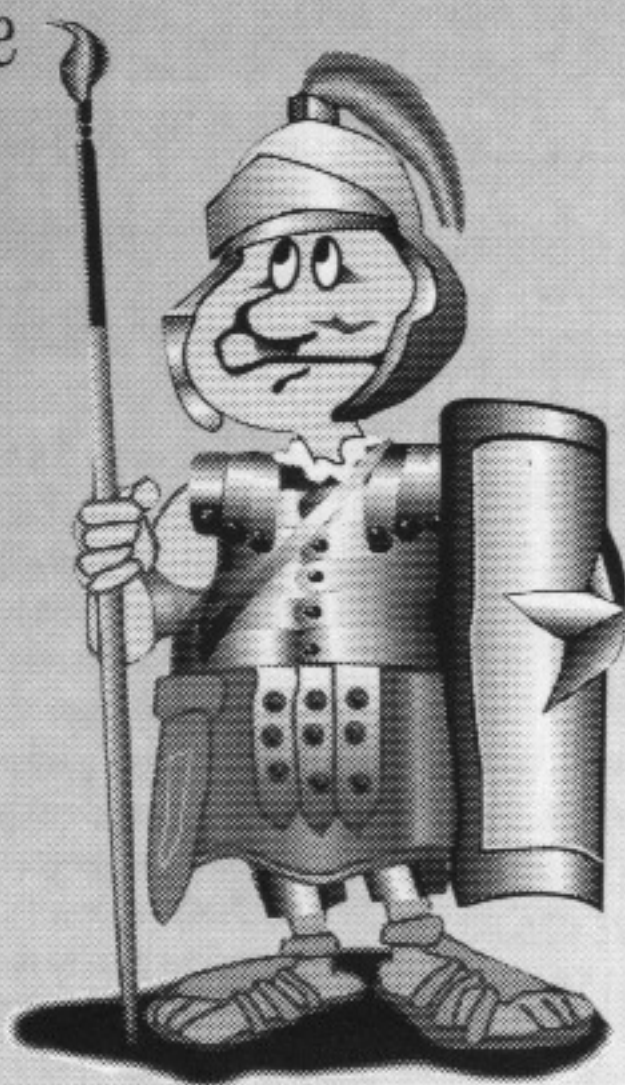
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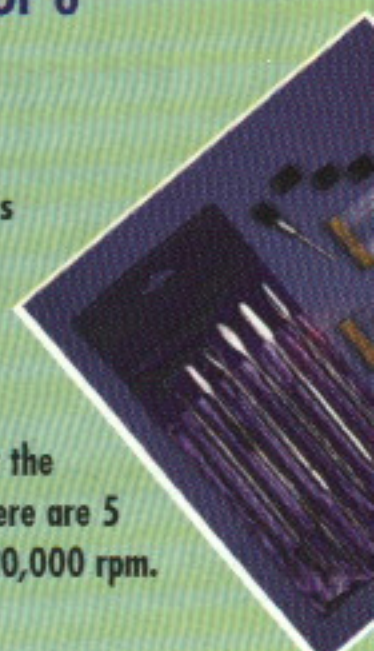
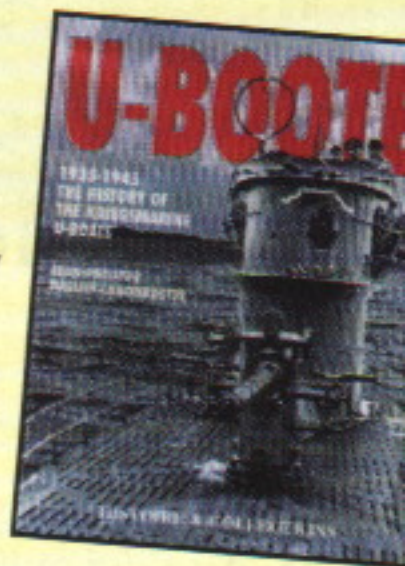
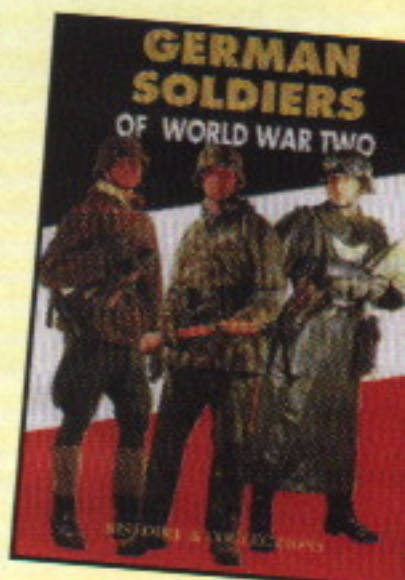
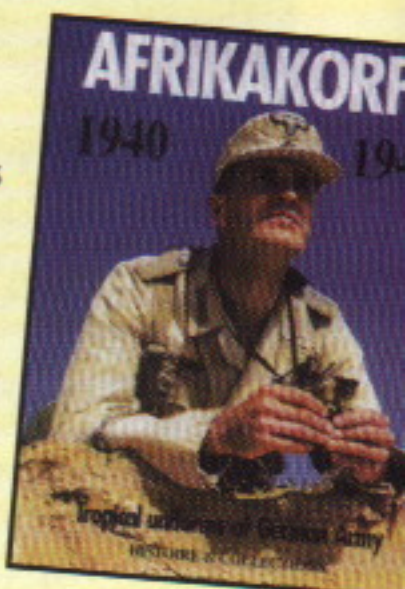
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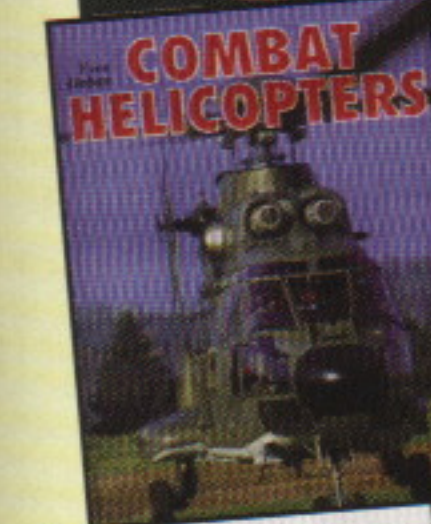


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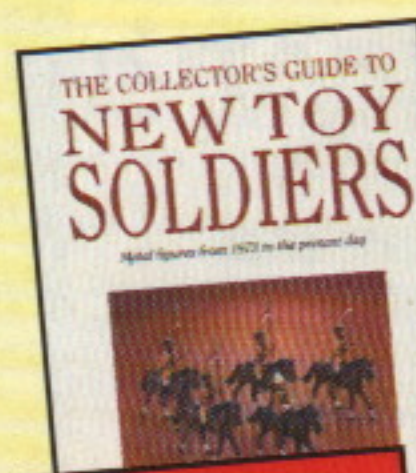
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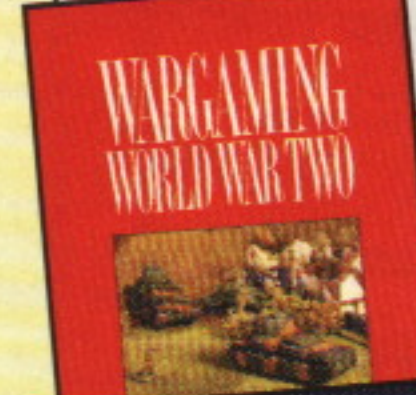
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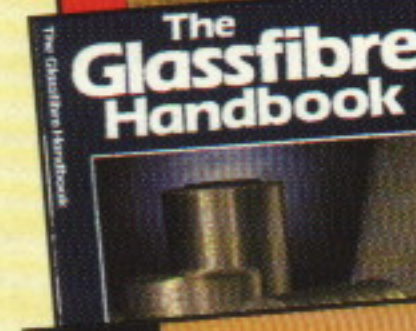
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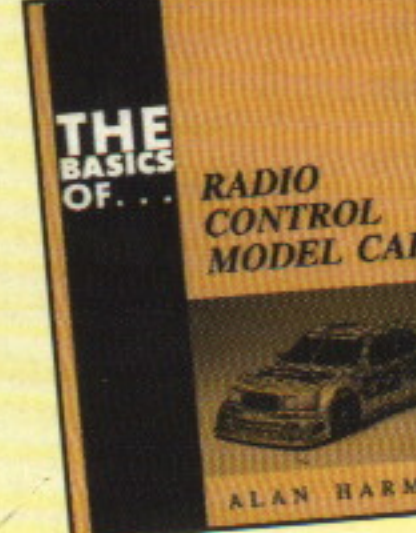
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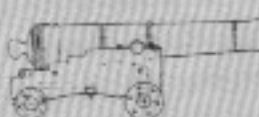
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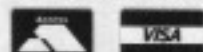
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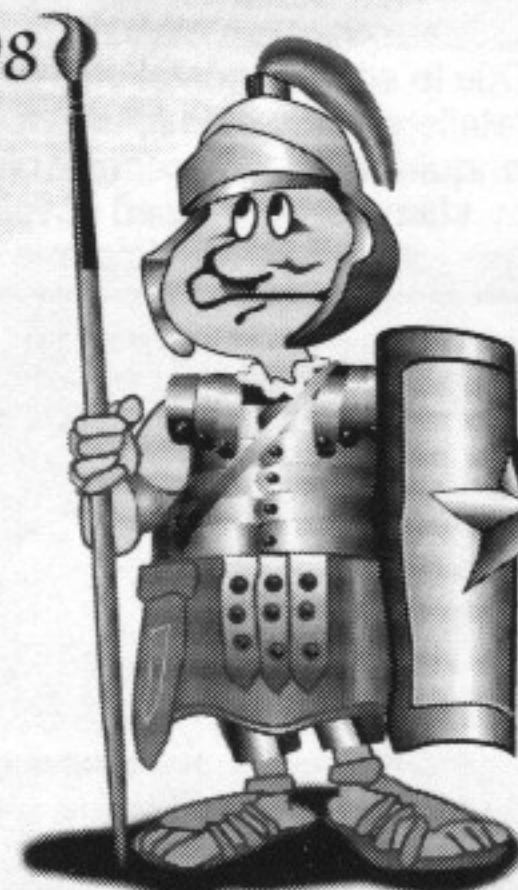
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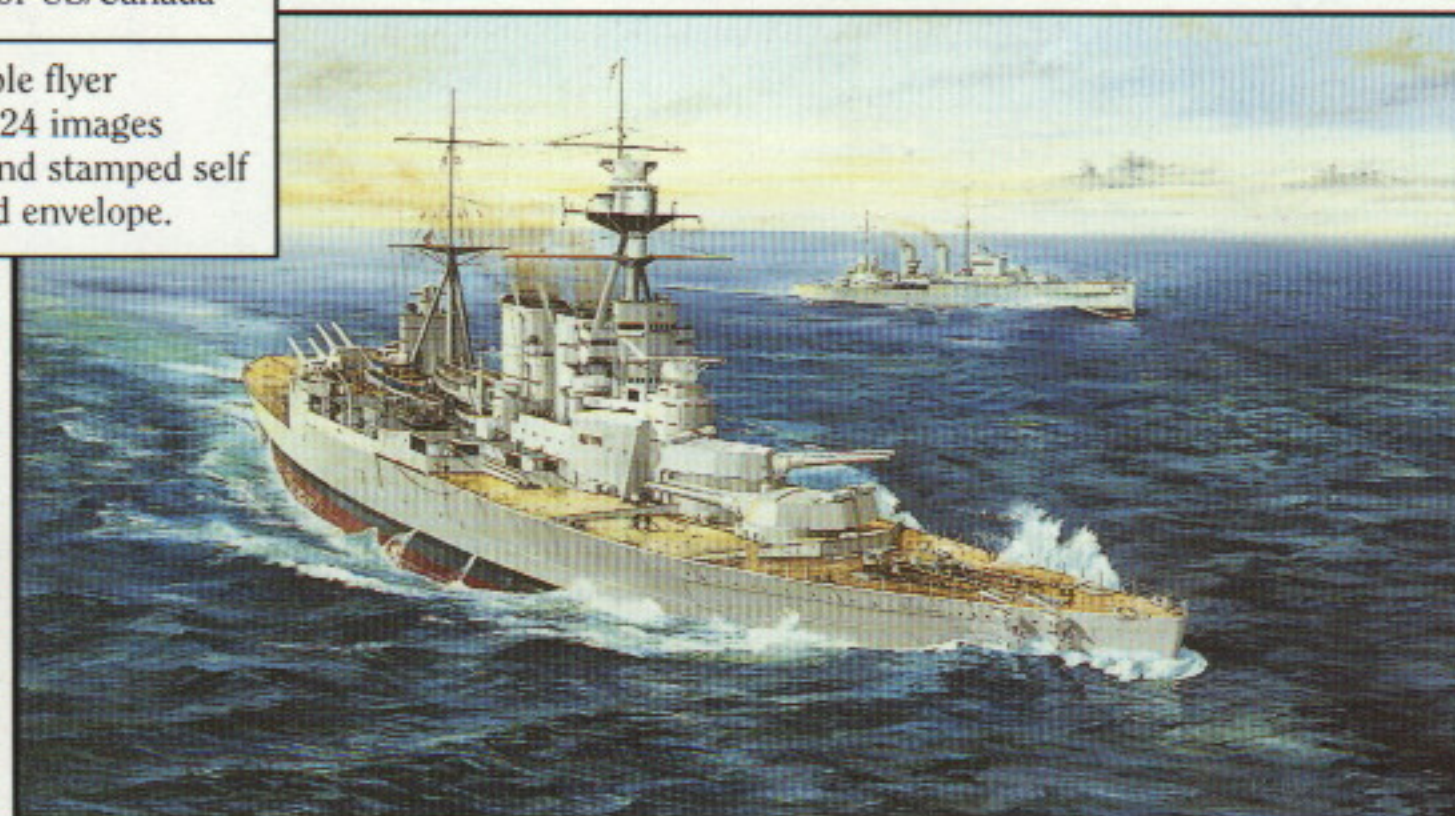


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